FEB., 1995

VOL. 8, No. 9, FEB. 1995 $2 OUTSIDE CHICAGO AREA

OUTLINES

THE VOICE OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY

INSIDE: A GUIDE TO THE CHICAGO ELECTIONS

Now in our 8th Year!

Publisher/activist Barbara Smith is featured on *In the Life* on PBS, airing Feb. 7 in Chicago.

BLACK & GAY

A Question of Identity

Special Black History Month Section, Including Calendar of Black Gay/Lesbian Leaders

Dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones comes to Chicago the end of March. See Black History pull-out section, pgs. 21-32.

SILENT NO MORE

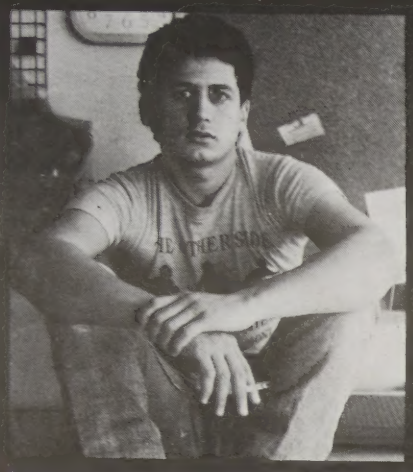
Glenn Close (right) plays Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer (left) in *Serving in Silence*, airing Monday, Feb. 6 on NBC. Close's character *will* get to kiss Australian actor Judy Davis' character. See pages 33-34 for an interview with executive producer Barbra Streisand and other key players behind the making of this ground-breaking film.

Boys On The Side:

Whoopi Goldberg (left) plays a lesbian singer while Mary-Louise Parker plays a woman with AIDS in this new women's road film. It has great cult potential. The Indigo Girls lesbian singing duo also have a part in this new film, and the soundtrack is all women. See page 38 for a review. *Boys on the Side* opens on Feb. 3.

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Gay Cuban film Strawberry & Chocolate set to open soon.
- A preview of gay and pro-gay candidates in Chicago's Feb. 28 elections.
- Also: Mardi Gras travel tips, major Chicago benefits, and much more.



Danny Sotomayor

August 30, 1958 — Feb. 5, 1992

The AIDS Crisis Is Not Over

In the decade that this city has grappled with the AIDS epidemic we have come to know a wealth of activists ... people who have given their lives in the struggle to gain greater understanding and assistance for those stricken with this horrible disease as well as greater funding for effective public health education to stem its spread.

Daniel Sotomayor was perhaps the most notorious, explosive AIDS activist this city has ever known. A vibrant, angry young man, Daniel used his activism and his considerable artistic talent to strip away the rhetoric that too often conceals woefully misguided AIDS policies.

Daniel infiltrated mayoral press conferences to "blow the whistle" on this city's inadequate AIDS Public Aware Campaign ... refusing to be silenced even by his own community when he publicly attacked the city's failure to aggressively implement the highly touted AIDS Strategic Plan. And Daniel took the heat for this unapologetic criticism of the current administration long before any of his more politically beholden peers had the courage to do so.

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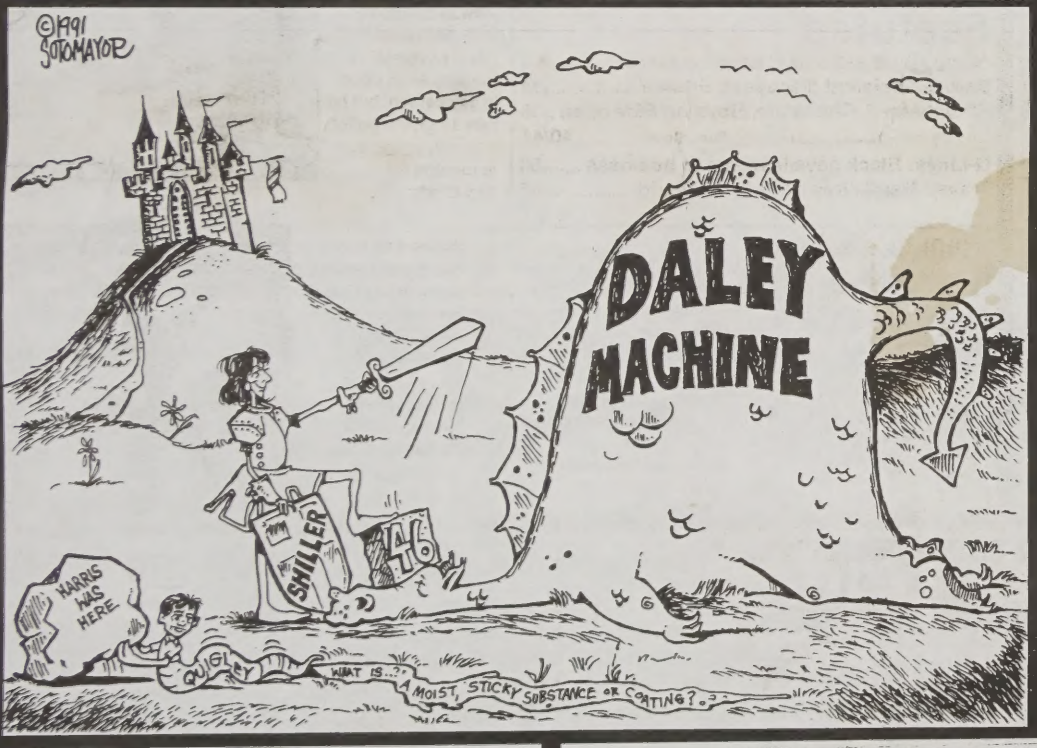

Daniel Sotomayor lost his battle with AIDS on February 5th of 1992, at age 33.
(portion of a statement read World AIDS Day by Ald. Helen Shiller)

We miss you, Danny,
Your pal, Lori

...SEE THE MAN THAT CAN'T SAY "CONDOMS"!
...SEE THE MAYOR, AS LONG AS IT'S NOT ON SUNDAY!
...SEE THE COPS BEAT YOU UP!
...SEE THE PRESS SECRETARY'S BLOOD BOIL!
DALEY'S SIDE SHOW OF FREAKS
RIFF RAFF

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...AND THIS TRIBE, OVER HERE, STILL PRACTICES THE ART OF CANNIBALISM!
GAY LESBIAN COMMUNITY
WE GO AROUND IN CIRCLES
DON'T WORRY WE ONLY EAT OUR LEADERS!

On this page, we have re-printed a few of Danny's brilliant artworks. His targets were local, national, and international, and he never shied away from controversy. Danny died three years ago this month, and this damnable plague continues to claim more creative, spirited and heroic people each day.

OUTLINES

VOL. 8, No. 9, February 1995
Now in Our 8th Year

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Nightlines **Deadline: Wednesdays** (for following week's issue)

OUT! Resource Guide (Gay/Lesbian Supportive Businesses, Professionals, Groups): Deadlines — Oct. 1 & April 1

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Strawberry and Chocolate, **the story of a gay man in Cuba who falls for his political opposite, has won awards at film festivals and is opening nationwide Feb. 10. It has also stirred up the political debate about Cuba and Fidel Castro. See page 38 for interviews with the stars and filmmakers.**

The election for Chicago city-wide and aldermanic races is Feb. 28 (general election April 4). See pgs. 18-20 for an overview of candidates. Only one person (Marc Loveless) is running as an openly gay person, but he may be off the ballot. Another gay person is running for City Clerk.

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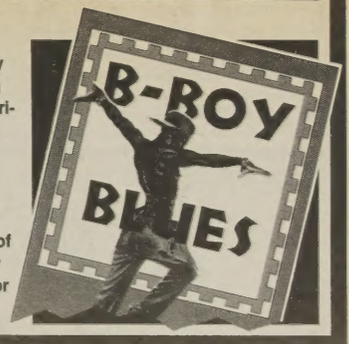
Outlines Viewpoints return next month



James Earl Hardy has broken down some literary barriers with his new novel, *B-Boy Blues,* about Black-on-Black male love. See page 30, as part of the Black History Month section, for an interview.

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On the Cover:

TOP: Publisher Barbara Smith and dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones are just two of the dozens of Black gays and lesbians featured in this month's special 12-page Black History Month section, pages 21-32. Also see Quotelines p. 7, Q-Lines p. 50. Don't miss the Black History Month calendar in the centerspread.
BELOW, LEFT: The story of Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer being kicked out of the military is told Feb. 6 on NBC, starring Glenn Close. See p. 33 for interviews with Cammermeyer, Close and Barbara Streisand (exec. producer).
RIGHT: See p. 38 for a review of *Boys on the Side,* starring Whoopi Goldberg as a lesbian lounge singer.

▼ Editorial ▼

Cleaning Up Our Own Backyard

As the gay and lesbian community becomes a more respected part of "mainstream" America, as it becomes easier to be out in almost every area of society, we are faced with an increasing burden—to make sure some of us aren't left in the back of the bus.

The melting pot that is the United States is also reflected in the les/bi/gay community. But so often, when it comes to our community's leadership, institutions, and media, there is little recognition of the contributions of gays and lesbians of color.

In a city such as Chicago, where the white population is actually in the minority, our community's institutions have done a dismal job at being representative of the people they serve. This is 1995, and many gay leaders are actually getting paid for their activism, or they have terrific jobs as open gays and lesbians. Being gay or lesbian has actually been beneficial to their careers. Yet, still, they have made little attempt to go beyond their circle of friends to be truly inclusive of our community.

There are legitimate social and economic burdens which make it more difficult for many women and people of color to contribute on equal footing with white gay men in our community. But that doesn't mean there are not innovative ways to allow all people a place at the table. Some organizations and businesses have done an excellent job at aggressively reaching out to all parts of the community—city and suburban, North and South and West, men and women, and people of all colors. Still other organizations receive grant money and community support but continue to be representative of just the North Lakefront.

This is not simply to criticize those hard-working people who care passionately about our community. So many people put in hundreds and thousands of hours each year, working for a variety of organizations and causes. Much of the sexism and racism is subtle, almost imperceptible—except to those who are stifled by it.

We must quit being ignorant or defensive about these issues, and take responsibility for the racism and sexism which surrounds us. If we continue to ignore the important contributions being made by all parts of our community, we will suffocate on our ignorance.

The melting pot will boil over, and we will all be burned.

—Tracy Baim

This is February, and that means this is the annual **Black History Month issue of OUTLINES.** See the pull-out section, pages 21-32 (special calendar p. 26-27), Quotelines p. 7 and Q-Lines p. 50. With this issue we are also kicking off a monthly section for African-American gay/lesbian news, views, art & more. We welcome contributions.

▼ Letters ▼

Who represents us?

The following letters were sent to the local gay media in response to WINDY CITY TIMES' coverage of a press conference noting support of incumbent Mayor Daley by a group of gays and lesbians. Normally, we do not print letters responding to coverage in another gay newspaper, but the issues raised in these letters apply to a larger problem about media coverage in the community.

It appears that some "white" individuals have, once again, assumed responsibility for speaking on behalf of the entire Chicago les/bi/gay/trans community. They have done so after consulting with only a few inner circle pals and, as usual, without seeking consent or even input in their decision from anyone else. Are they really THE community?

You may ask what was so distressing about the Jan. 12 WINDY CITY TIMES cover page photo and article headlined "Gay Leaders Come Out For Daley." Just ask yourself: What's missing from that picture? Ah, yes! Members of several racial groups in our community are not represented in the so-called "leadership." In Chicago, where people of color are, in fact, the majority, we are invisible as far as this bunch is concerned.

Once again, WCT defines "the leaders." We want to know who proclaimed this group of individuals to be leaders. What or which gay community are they leading? Of those "gay leaders supporting Daley, and his work within the gay community," who sat down with members of our community to discuss how, and if, our needs are being met?

Each of us has a choice, a personal choice, about who we choose to represent us. However, if you represent/present yourself as a leader, then you must speak first with those you claim to lead. It is neither honorable nor respectful of our community's rich diversity to call upon us to support a campaign AFTER the rules of the game are established. ...

The issue here is not support for or against Mayor Daley, but of inclusion, and the opportunity to make informed choices. Respectfully:

African American Womyn's Alliance (Lisa Pickens and Karen Long, co-chairs); **Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays** (Michael O'Connor); **Association of Latino Men In Action** (David Munar, President); **BROTHERRS Project** (Darnell Bonds, Chair); **Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays** (Renae Ogletree and Michael Harrington, Co-chairs); **Greater Chicago Committee** (Jim Harvey, Pres.); **Group Dialogue; Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Chicago South Side Chapter** (Kim Campbell, Chair); **National Association of Black and White Men Together** (Les Everett, National Co-Chair); **National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum** (Steve Wakefield, Board of Governors).

▼▼▼▼▼

Men of All Colors Together/Chicago wishes to express our support and agreement with the concerns voiced recently by a Chicago coalition of lesbian and gay organizations representing people of color. The fact that there is a lack of inclusion of people of color in the life, institutions and leadership of our community must be addressed.

MACT/Chicago ... is dedicated to help eradicate racism, sexism and homophobia in our society. We are also concerned about these issues as they are reflected at home, within our own les/bi/gay communities. Our members are men of all races who believe that only by working TOGETHER can we eradicate those social ills, those "isms" in which we were all raised to believe.

Our African-American, Latino, and Asian brothers and sisters in the Chicago les/bi/gay community can't be the only ones to sound the alarm. Those of us who identify as "white" don't need to freeze up in denial, fear and anger and remain a part of the problem. We can help find a solution! Each one of us can look at our own circle of friends, at the groups to which we belong, and at the church we attend. We can scrutinize our workplace and even consider our favorite bar or club. We can evaluate whether or not people of color have an equal place there, or if they are even welcome in the first place. We can examine our own lives and dare to ask ourselves the hard question, "Am I part of a group which, year after year, remains an enclave of leadership and control by whites-only?" It is disappointing, if not painful, to realize that every day most of us have knowingly or unknowingly continued the pattern of institutional racism.

The answers must bring us to the conclusion that, yes, Jim Crow is alive and well here, even though the majority of Chicagoans, and thus the majority of les/bi/gay Chicagoans, are people of color. For a specific example, consider the fact that there are more Blacks than whites in Chicago. So it's no wonder that racism is charged when one learns that the board and staff members of our prominent gay institutions are still overwhelmingly white. Only a handful are progressive enough to actually recruit and place *a few* token persons of color on board. Hey guys, it's not about racial quotas. It's about equality.

Preston Shumaker (Black Co-chair), **Dennis Zygadlo** (White Co-chair)
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago

▼▼▼▼▼

Susan Herr and Michael Bauer, co-chairs of Gays & Lesbians To Re-Elect Daley, stated: "We do not and never have claimed to represent every gay, lesbian or bisexual person. We have, and always will, solicit and welcome support from all segments of the gay & lesbian community for Daley's re-election effort."

They also state: "On one thing we hope all Democrats agree: given the rise of the conservative Republican tide, a strong Chicago mayor is critical if our city is to maintain its political clout. Gay & lesbian issues will be among the first to come under attack ... so gays & lesbians need a strong Chicago mayor who will promote our interests. ... Gays and Lesbians to Re-Elect Daley is a growing group of community leaders and citizens. We are more than 100 volunteers actively working to re-elect the Mayor."

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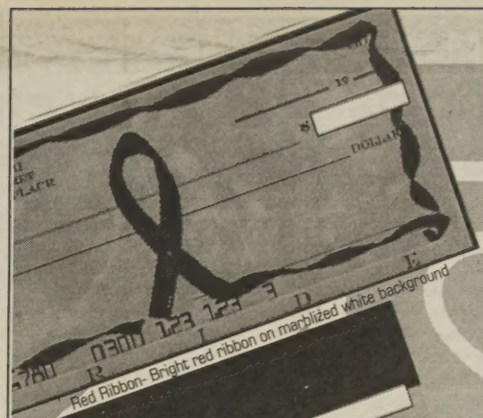

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INSIDE OUT

Not-So-Great Expectations

by Yvonne Zipter

February. The month of luvvv. The month our hearts turn to, well, hearts. Not the kind that are fist-shaped and sit in our chests pounding out a backbeat to life—although it seems to me the National Heart Association is missing out on a great promotional opportunity by not making February national heart month. No, the hearts we focus on in February are metaphorical hearts and symbolic hearts: the "hearts," or love, of those we most cherish and those little symbols that are supposed to represent hearts but in fact bear no resemblance whatsoever to the real thing.

It is the month, on that one particular day, when we declare or redeclare our love for someone special. And we declare it with Hallmark cards, "heart"-shaped boxes of candy, flowers, diamond jewelry, and fancy lingerie. These gifts are okay, I guess, but frankly I'd be more impressed by an impassioned and heartfelt "I love you" when I am visibly bloated, have a bad case of bed head, and a flaming zit on my chin. Now, that, my friends, is a declaration of love that you can take to the bank. Well, maybe not Citibank, where there are minimum opening balance requirements that generally involve monetary units rather than measures of devotion, but the Bank of Metaphoric Love (member FDIC), which has convenient hours and drive-up window service, would set you up with a metaphoric bank book—and give you a vibrator or some slinky lingerie for opening up an account.

I keep coming back to the lingerie thing because I'm sort of fascinated by the concept of wearing something that is prettier than I am. I guess lingerie is supposed to heighten your own natural beauty, like mousse or dipilatory creams, but I can't see how all that lace making me scratch at my breasts and nether parts would increase my attractiveness. My delicate skin, which turns bright red upon toweling dry after showering, wants only natural and breathable fabrics getting up close and personal with it. And my most recent trip to the doctor has pretty much sealed my fate in this arena, the outcome of which is that, basically, I now need to wear what amounts to an orthopedic bra. "You know the kind," she said. "One of those that looks like a steel-belted radial." Somehow, the phrase "steel-belted radial" does not scream "Sexy!" to me. So now I am picturing myself, instead of going to, say, Victoria's Secret, going to the Sears automotive department where they will hoist me up on a hydraulic lift for a fitting. I am hoping they can fix me up with one of those all-weather models; I wouldn't want any unfortunate accidents to occur on a particularly slippery stretch. The only thing that has me a little worried is just how they'll use that pneumatic drill in the installation process ... . I have by now actually tried on a number of these bras, more than one of which made us think of war movies with submarine ships in pursuit of the enemy. ("Man the torpedoes. Fire 1! Fire 2!") I felt almost ... patriotic. Mom, apple pie, and hooters shaped like implements of destruction.

Actually, my expectations for Valentine's Day were knocked down several pegs a few years back anyway, even before all hopes of being Cindy Crawford were squelched. That was the Valentine's Day that started off with me going to the dentist to have a filling replaced just before noon. I came home to find my girlfriend Kathy run over by a semi-truck of a flu and lying on the couch looking like the coyote after that rock falls off the cliff and lands smack on top of him. But wait, there's more. After waiting beyond the dentist's recommended hour before trying to consume food in my novocaine-numbed mouth, I could wait no longer, and began to eat a sandwich. But something did not feel quite right, in my still-numb mouth, and I asked Kathy to take a peek at my lip. In her already weakened state, she nearly fell into a swoon: I had kind of missed the bread once or twice. It didn't hurt a bit just then, of course, but later, when it thawed out, I was in no mood for a romantic Valentine's dinner and of course, neither was Kath, what with one thing and another. Kissing, of course, was out of the question.

There was also the Valentine's Day, a couple of years before that, when the two us got caught in that infamous freak snow storm in Chicago. We left work at three—to avoid the mess—and got home about 9:30. No, we do not commute between Chicago and Des Moines but, rather, from the North Side to the South Side. Neither did we stop off for a not-so-quickie at the Motel No-tell. No, friends, that was pure drive time—if pushing the car out of snow drifts and waiting for some kind motorist to let us into their lane from out behind a stalled or abandoned vehicle can be counted as "driving." Romance, as you might guess, was not big on our agenda upon our return home that evening either.

While other of our Valentine's Days have been less spectacular than either of the aforementioned, the result has been that our standards for a "good" Valentine's Day have been drastically lowered. It is, for us, a good Valentine's if we are not required to reenact the tour of the *S.S. Minnow* in our land-bound vehicle; if neither of us bites a body part—our own or each other's—that we hadn't intended to nibble upon; and no one flattened like a cartoon character under a steamroller of a virus. Now *that* is a wonderful Valentine's Day.

And this year? This year I am looking forward to taking Kath for a little spin on the new steel-belted radials. Hang on, honey, there's some big curves up ahead!

Here's hoping you have a happy Valentine's Day, however *you* choose celebrate it ... .

Dykes To Watch Out For
the rock
© 1994 BY ALISON BECHDEL
... SO ARE YOU TWO CLEAR ON WHAT YOUR JOBS ARE WHILE I'M GONE?
YEAH.
GOT IT
I'M GONNA HAVE TONI COME IN AND DO THE BOOKKEEPING AND PAYROLL, BUT MO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING ELSE: MEETING WITH SALES REPS, ORDERING, PAYING BILLS, MAKING DEPOSITS, DOING THE SCHEDULE, ALL THAT. I WANT THE THREE OF YOU TO WORK TOGETHER. BUT IF YOU CAN'T, MO'S THE BOSS. OKAY?
GULP!
JEZANNA, YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE NEVER COMING BACK! THIS IS JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, RIGHT?
OH! AND WE'RE OUT OF TOILET PAPER, AND THE SPIRITUALITY SECTION NEEDS RE-ALPHABETIZING. Y'KNOW, MAYBE I SHOULD WRITE UP A DETAILED LIST OF ALL THE THINGS YOU'LL HAVE TO...
JEZ, WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT! DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A TOTAL CONTROL FREAK, AND DO ALL THE IMPORTANT STUFF AROUND HERE YOURSELF, I THINK WE'VE MANAGED TO PICK UP A THING OR TWO BY OSMOSIS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE STORE! YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF IF YOU'RE GONNA BE ANY USE TO YOUR MOTHER. NOW, ARE YOU OKAY?
JEZANNA? I CAME RIGHT OVER! ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT HAPPENED?
HI, TONI. I JUST FOUND OUT MY MOTHER HAS BREAST CANCER, AND I'M FLYING OUT TO BE WITH HER TOMORROW. COME ON, LET'S GO OVER THE BOOKS. I HAVE A LOT TO DO TONIGHT.
BREAST CANCER?! HOLD ON, JEZ! LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS! ARE YOU OKAY?
YES, I AM OKAY! I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S SICK. WHY ARE YOU ALL UP IN MY FACE? AND WHAT ARE YOU TWO EVEN DOING HERE? YOU DON'T WORK FOR ME!
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS. THIS IS WHAT FRIENDS DO.
LISTEN. MY MOM'S MAD CANCER FOR FIVE YEARS NOW. I CAN HELP YOU DEAL WITH THIS IF YOU WANT TO TALK.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SAY! I TOLD HER A THOUSAND TIMES, "MAMA! YOU NEED TO GET A MAMMOGRAM!" I EVEN MADE APPOINTMENTS! DID SHE KEEP THEM? NO, SHE DID NOT!
ONE DAY SHE NOTICED A LUMP! DID SHE TELL ANYONE? NO, SHE DID NOT? DIDN'T WANT TO BE ANY TROUBLE! THEY ONLY FOUND IT SIX MONTHS LATER WHEN MY COUSIN DRAGGED HER IN FOR A PHYSICAL!
YOU'RE ANGRY. THAT'S GOOD. STAY WITH YOUR FEELINGS.
HEY! IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA BREAK DOWN BAWLING SO YOU CAN ALL MAKE A FUSS, YOU GOT ANOTHER THING COMING. LET'S GO, TONI!
HOW BAD IS IT?
THEY DON'T KNOW YET. OR SHE JUST WON'T SAY.
UNDERNEATH THE ATTITUDE, SHE'S REALLY SCARED.
YEAH, SHE IS IN SO MUCH DENIAL. COME ON, LET'S GET THESE BOOKS RE-ALPHABETIZED!
Dykes To Watch Out For
minding the store
©1994 BY ALISON BECHDEL
RIGHT.... OKAY.... WELL LISTEN, I'M REALLY GLAD YOUR MOM MADE IT THROUGH THE SURGERY ALL RIGHT. HANG IN THERE, JEZ, AND I'LL TALK TO YOU TOMORROW.... YES, THE STORE IS FINE. I'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL. DON'T WORRY! OKAY, BYE.
EXCUSE ME. I'M LOOKING FOR A COPY OF THAT NEW BOOK, "STRANGE JUSTICE: THE SELLING OF CLARENCE THOMAS."
SURE! WE JUST GOT A SHIPMENT IN THIS MORNING. LEMME GET YOU ONE.
HEY, MO. CHECK IT OUT. THEY SENT US THE WRONG NEW CLARENCE THOMAS BOOK. WE HAVE THIRTY COPIES HERE OF THE WACKO ONE BY SENATOR DANFORTH!
HOW'D THAT HAPPEN? SHIT! I'VE GOT A CUSTOMER OUT THERE WAITING FOR THE RIGHT ONE!
ISN'T THERE A DISPLAY COPY IN THE WINDOW? SELL THAT.
GOOD THINKING!
AAUGH!
WHAT IS THIS BABY DOING UNSUPERVISED?!
WAA!
UH... I'M WATCHING HIM WHILE TONI'S ON THE COMPUTER.
LOIS! WATCHING MEANS WATCHING! YOU CAN'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF A TODDLER! HE COULD'VE GOTTEN HURT!
DID PUMPKIN GET A BOO-BOO?
LET'S KEEP A LID ON THE CHAOS, OKAY? WE HAVE CUSTOMERS.
AAAH!
HERE, RAFFI. ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HEY, MO, WAS THAT JEZANNA ON THE PHONE? HOW'S HER MOTHER?
SHE GOT THROUGH THE MASTECTOMY OKAY, BUT JEZ SOUNDED PRETTY FRIED. I MEAN, ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, SHE'S GOTTA DEAL WITH HER FAMILY AND THE DOCTORS.
AAAA
MAN, THIS BREAST CANCER THING REALLY HAS ME FREAKED OUT, EVERYWHERE I GO LATELY, SOMEONE EITHER HAS IT OR KNOWS SOMEONE WHO DOES. IT'S A FUCKING EPIDEMIC.
YEAH. AND THE SCARIEST THING IS, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT IT. SOMETIMES MY BREASTS FEEL LIKE TICKING TIME BOMBS.
MF
THEY SAY CHILDBIRTH REDUCES YOUR RISK FACTOR A LITTLE. YOU COULD GET PREGNANT.
NOW THERE'S A TEMPTING OPTION.
UH... I THINK I'LL TRY LIVING SOLELY ON ORGANIC WHEAT GRASS JUICE INSIDE A LARGE, TOXIN-FREE BUBBLE FIRST.
NGA.
LISTEN, IF YOU'VE GOT YOUR HANDS FULL HERE, I'M SURE I CAN GET A COPY OF THAT BOOK OVER AT THE BUNNS AND NOODLE SUPERSTORE.

Quotelines

by Tracy Baim

A Special Black History Month Edition

As a tribute to Black History Month, this month we are featuring quotes by and about African-American gay/lesbian issues. All of this month's OUTLINES Quotelines are by African-Americans, most of them also gay or lesbian.

"RACE IS THE FIRST thing people recognize about you. My race is the one thing that I've always had pride in, even as a little kid. My sexuality is something that I'm becoming more comfortable with everyday." — *African-American gay Author E. Lynn Harris* (Invisible Life, Just As I Am), *in the TRIBUNE.*

"THE GAY MOVEMENT is basically a white movement. Gay whites still have white status in this country. Sexuality is something people can change from the outward appearance. Unless someone looks 'gay' [whites] can easily switch to their white status and not suffer any injustices." — *Harris.*

"MOST BLACKS ARE homophobic because Black gays and lesbians have been so closeted and invisible that Black people really believe that this is not a part of their community." — *Harris.*

"[IN AMERICA] queers are represented—in simple language—as dangerous, selfish, sick men and women taking over the world to destroy it, by perverting and corrupting all the children through our evil pleasures. 'White,' 'male' and 'assimilationist'—in the *simplest* language—don't even come into it." — *Award-winning African-American gay science-fiction writer Samuel Delany (*Silent Interviews, *and the* Nevèrÿon *trilogy), interviewed in METROLINE.*

"I'M TRYING to move my consciousness away from being a victim, being in another minority." — *Bill T. Jones, dancer/choreographer, on why he doesn't consider AIDS the subject of his dance* Still/Here, *coming to Chicago the end of March. Jones, who is an openly gay African-American, is also HIV-positive.*

"I DON'T WANNA be last year's queen." — *Supermodel/super drag queen RuPaul in Movieline.*

"FIRST AND FOREMOST, first and always, my

Author E. Lynn Harris.

tion for every single decision made by the government or individuals. And if the lesbian and gay movement's motto becomes 'A Place at the Table' in the present system, I have to ask what am I, as a Black woman, going to be doing at this table—carrying a tray? Handing someone a dish? A place at the table? Not likely. It really doesn't work for me." — *Barbara Smith.*

"ONE PAINFUL experience I have over and over again is when prominent Black women leaders who are closeted pull me aside at a conference or some gathering to say, 'Barbara, I'm so glad you;re doing what you're doing. ...' And yet, they are not about to say on the stage or anywhere public, 'As a lesbian, I'm so proud that Barbara's a lesbian, too. She has helped me to be proud as a lesbian.'" — *Smith.*

"If the lesbian and gay movement's motto becomes 'A Place at the Table' in the present system, I have to ask what am I, as a Black woman, going to be doing at this table—carrying a tray? Handing someone a dish? A place at the table? Not likely. It really doesn't work for me."
— *Publisher Barbara Smith*

idol was and is Miss Diana Ross. She's someone who came up against adversity and just said, 'Uh-uh.'" — *RuPaul, who plays Jan Brady's guidance counselor in the upcoming* The Brady Bunch *film, and also stars as incumbent Queen of New York in* To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar, *due out later this year. RuPaul's autobiography,* Lettin' It All Hang Out, *is due out in June.*

"SOCIETY SAYS IT'S OK to be mean toward people of different races, religions, sexual preferences, or anything that is different, and that's not right. I made this movie to open people's eyes to that fact." — *African-American filmmaker John Singleton* (Boyz N the Hood) *on his new movie* Higher Learning, quoted *in OUT.* Higher Learning *is about racial tension on campus, and includes a scene where a lesbian, played by Jennifer Connelly, hits on a straight woman, played by Kristy Swanson.*

"I DON'T TRUST anybody, No one. I was just a carefree kind of guy who loves everybody, but in high school that doesn't go. I found that there's a lot more bigotry against gays among Blacks. And it angers me, because Black people, of all people, should know what it feels like to be oppressed. I don't see any hope for society. The most important things, like accepting ourselves as individuals, and not judging or being judged, I don't see." — *Raphael, 19, in a MOTHER JONES cover story about teens and sex.*

"WE LIVE IN A racist society. The same dynamic exists in the gay community." — *Seattle City Councilwoman Sherry D. Harris, the first open lesbian African-American to hold public office, during the recent International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials conference in Seattle, as quoted in THE NEW YORK TIMES.*

"AS AN AFRICAN-American, many of my people have gone through much, much more than any gay white man has ever gone through." — *Dorinda Henry, legislative assistant to Sherry Harris.*

"ONE OF THE reasons people of color get marginalized and left out is because many fundraising events come in at $100 or $200 or $1,000 a shot." — *Ron Simmons, editor of BROTHER TO BROTHER SEATTLE, a monthly newsletter for Black gay and bisexual men, quoted in THE NEW YORK TIMES, which noted that religious conservatives are using "the distance between some Black leaders and some gay causes" to their political advantage—pitting Blacks vs. gays in order to pass anti-gay laws.*

"I DISOWNED RELIGION when it had no answers for me, but my abiding faith in God led me on a journey to discover who that Being really was. And He became something so much greater than the angry and vengeful God who had been introduced to me as a gay child. Instead, He became a kind and caring and inclusive God—someone who walked with me in the bars, in the baths, and in the bushes. He taught me that the only sin a person can commit is not to love." — *Bishop Carl Bean, founder, Unity Fellowship Christ Church, as one of GENRE magazine's 1994 "Men We Love."*

"THUS FAR, THE setting for a story about Black gay men has always been a predominantly white world. Maybe that's because most publishers and editors tend to be white, and are more comfortable dealing with us on their own terms, in their own environment. *B-Boy Blues* takes place in a completely African-American world. It examines the whole mystique of gay men in the Black community who sometimes assume a hypermasculine pose—that of the 'B-boy' or 'homeboy'—as a means of challenging anyone who questions their masculinity. It's something we have to confront as gays: this image that if you're gay, you're somehow less than a man. It's especially an issue for many gay Black men. And this is the first book to talk about it. It will make history." — B-Boy Blues *(Alyson Publications) author James Earl Hardy, age 27, in GENRE.*

"I DON'T GET TIRED of performing them as long as people are enjoying them, that's my purpose in performing. So, no, I don't get tired of them. I mean, I'm not particular about sitting down and listening to them." — '70s disco diva Gloria Gaynor ("I Will Survive," "Never Can Say Goodbye") when asked by Australia's MELBOURNE STAR OBSERVER, "Gloria, do you ever tire of performing those same old tracks?"

See the centerspread of this month's Outlines for a pull-out section on Black History Month, including a keep-sake calendar of well-known African-American gays and lesbians. Also, see the Q-lines, page 50, for interviews with African-American gay/lesbian entrepreneurs.

RuPaul, by Chicago artist Otis Richardson

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International News Roundup

French bishop's dismissal protested

EVREUX, France—In January, thousands of people in France protested Pope John Paul II's dismissal of Bishop Jaques Gaillot as the Bishop of Evreux. In his 12-year stint as Bishop, Gaillot earned a reputation as a dissident, condemning the church's ban on contraception, calling for people at risk for contracting HIV to use condoms, and affirming the rights of gays and lesbians. In a 1989 interview with the French magazine GAY PIED, he said, "Homosexuals will go before us into the kingdom of God," THE NEW YORK TIMES reported. At his farewell Mass Jan. 22, he said he would continue his work with "outcasts" such as the homeless, prisoners and people with AIDS. The Vatican removed him from Evreux and gave him the title of Bishop of Partenia, an inactive diocese in the West African nation of Mauritania.

South Asian gays meet

BOMBAY, India—Gay-rights activists from around the Indian subcontinent in January had to relocate the vast region's first gay conference from New Delhi to a hidden location near Bombay out of concerns that conservative Hindus might stir up anti-gay attacks.

But even amidst this somewhat tense social environment, some 70 gay men—the conference was not intended to include lesbians—attended the five-day meeting, coming from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and the island nation of Sri Lanka. The principal focus, aside from increased communications, was abolition of India's anti-gay "carnal intercourse" law, which carries penalties of up to 10 years in prison, and inclusion of educational materials about homosexuality in the country's history, especially during the era prior to British colonial rule. Imprisoned gay men are often subject to forced labor and are chained in their cells, Associated Press reported. Conference attendees estimated there are 50 million gays in India.

1st Swedish gays marry

STOCKHOLM—Hans Jonsson and Sven-Olov Jansson became the country's first gay couple to marry under the nation's new legislation permitting same-sex couples to legally register their relationships. The Jan. 2 ceremony took place at the town hall in Ostersund in central Sweden. Local governments throughout the country have appointed officials to handle the same-sex partner registrations, except Varnamo, a conservative town of about 16,000 some 200 miles southeast of Stockholm, where political opponents of the new marriage law convinced local authorities not to appoint registration officials.

Iceland studies partner registry, discrimination

REYKJAVIK, Iceland—An Iceland parliamentary commission established to study civil rights and social conditions of gays and lesbians has recommended enactment of national anti-bias legislation, a legal partnership registration similar to those in several Scandinavian countries, and educational changes about gays in the nation's schools. A minority on the commission, including the two members from the gay group Samtokin 78, wanted the recommendations to be more sweeping, including making same-sex partnerships equal to marriages. The recommendations are being reviewed by the government.

AIDS cases top 1 million

GENEVA—The number of AIDS cases in the world officially topped 1 million Jan. 3, the World Health Organization reported. The UN agency said the real number is probably closer to 4.5 million, but that underreporting had deflated the figures. An estimated 19.5 million have been infected with HIV since the pandemic began; 13 to 15 million of those are alive today, Reuters reported. As of Dec. 31, 1.025 million AIDS cases had been reported in 192 countries, a 20 percent jump over last year. The U.S., which has faster and more accurate reporting, had 39 percent of reported cases, but probably has only 9 percent of overall cases in the world, WHO said. African nations reported 34 percent of cases, but the actual number is probably closer to 70 percent.

Young Mussolini backs gay rights, adoptions

ROME—In an interview with the magazine ROME GAY NEWS, the granddaughter of Benito Mussolini, Italian dictator during World War II, said the far right should not be automatically considered anti-gay, that she supports the right of gays and lesbians to adopt children, and that her famous forefather was opposed to persecution of homosexuals. Allesandra Mussolini, a member of the Italian Parliament from the far-right National Alliance Party, said, "There is no room for extreme attitudes nowadays." She said her grandfather personally told Germany's Adolf Hitler during the war that he opposed the execution of homosexuals in Nazi concentration camps. During World War II, many homosexuals in Italy were sentenced to internal exile along with political dissidents.

Chinese sex research group forms

BEIJING—Confronted with widespread ignorance about sex, increasing prostitution and sexually transmitted diseases, Chinese scholars, health experts and researchers in December banded together to found the country's first official organization to study sexuality in the nation. The China Assoc. for Sexology will study sexual medicine, sex education, sexual psychology, sexual sociology, and venereal disease protection, according to a report in the CHINA DAILY. Although association president Wang Guangchao gave no details, cases of AIDS and HIV infection are increasing in China and officials say that screening is far from effective. After decades of communist ideology, many Chinese are embarrassed to discuss sex and teachers are unwilling to teach students about human reproduction.

Philippines' rights group fires lesbians

PHILIPPINES—A Philippines human-rights group in September fired two lesbians because their relationship was allegedly disruptive to the agency's work. Elizabeth Lim and Evangeline Castronuevo were fired from the Board of Directors of the Balay Rehabilitation Center, the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission reported. The relationship became public when one of the women told another office worker about her feelings. Several women's and lesbian groups in the Philippines have protested the firings.

Gay tour of Vietnam

BERKELEY, Calif.—A U.S. tour company is offering gay trips to Vietnam in March. The 16-day tour includes Hanoi and Saigon, including the cities' gay and lesbian social scene. VeloAsia also offers gay-oriented bicycling tours in remote Vietnam. Call (800) 884-2742.

IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA—The Australian Senate in December passed the Federal Sexual Privacy Act to neutralize Tasmania's ban on gay sex. The bill must now be signed by the governor general. Tasmania is the only Australian state to criminalize homosexuality. Last year, the U.N. Human Rights Committee ruled that Tasmania's laws violated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Australia signed.

MOSCOW—In December, Russian President Boris Yeltsin vetoed a bill that would have required HIV testing for all for foreigners living in or seeking to visit Russia. The bill passed both houses of the Russian parliament earlier in 1994.

RIO DE JANEIRO—In an effort to slow the spread of HIV in the coastal city of Cabedelo, Brazil, the town's mayor has ordered that establishments widely known as sex havens must distribute condoms every 4 hours. The new rule applies to both motels and brothels.

--GayNet and Jane Lowers

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ELECTION 1995

See pages 18-20 for an overview of candidates competing in the Feb. 28 Chicago elections.
Also see upcoming issues of Nightlines for election briefs.
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR

A Very Special Collector's Calendar with Black gay and lesbian social, cultural and political leaders, past and present.
CENTERSPREAD, pages 26-27.

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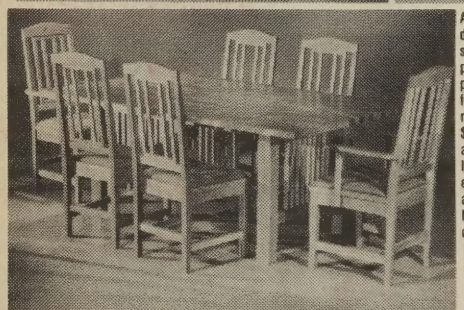

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World Report

by Rex Wockner

Czech parliament to consider gay marriage

PRAGUE—A gay-marriage law may well pass the Czech Republic parliament this year, say Ingeborg Polakova and Jan Bednar of SOHO, the nation's leading gay-rights group.

SOHO's proposed legislation will be considered when the parliament begins a planned updating of the Czech Civil Code and Family Law. If it passes, gay couples who register their partnership would have every right of marriage except to adopt children.

International lobbying is requested of the following officials. (1) Milan Uhde, Predseda Poslaneckeho snemovny Parlamentu CR, Snemovni 4, 118 26 Praha 1, Czech Republic. (2) Ivan Medek, Reditel Odboru vnitrni politiky, Kancelar prezidenta republiky, 119 08 Praha-Hrad, Czech Republic. (3) President Vaclav Havel at fax number 011-42-2-241-82045.

Report: British Defense has secret gay index

LONDON—Britain's Ministry of Defense has a "secret index of lesbians and gay men," reported the BBC Radio Five Live program *Out This Week* in January.

A former sergeant in the Royal Military Police, Caroline Meaghr, told the program that data on the "sexual life" of all persons whose names have come up in military investigations are stored on computers in an office in London's Earls Court.

The information has been shared with civilian police, she said, giving those dismissed from the military for homosexuality a criminal record. Britain's Data Protection Registrar is investigating the report because the military's failure to register the fact that it keeps information on "sexual life" would violate Britain's Data Protection Act.

Latvian church excommunicates gays

LATVIA—Latvia's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the nation's largest, has excommunicated all sexually active gays, reports the INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN.

The governing body ruled: "Persons who deliberately practice homosexuality and have chosen it as their way of life shall not be allowed to fulfill any responsibilities during parish services or within the church hierarchy. They shall also be separated from the Eucharistic (communion) community while the Evangelical principle 'Repent your sins and bring forth the fruits of your repentance' remains unfulfilled."

Gays responded with a protest outside church headquarters, organized by the Latvian Association for Sexual Equality. The demonstration was well-received by passers-by and reported on television.

Spain to consider partnership registry for gays and straights

SPAIN—Spain's government will consider creating registered partnership for gay and straight couples this spring, Madrid gay leaders report. Legislation written by gay groups has received support in the media, regional parliaments, and the federal parliament, which last month voted to tell the government to write its own proposal. Most if not all rights of marriage except adoption are expected to be included in the final plan. Individuals may adopt in Spain regardless of their sexuality.

Some 30 Spanish cities register "civil unions," including Barcelona, Cordoba, Granada, Ibiza, Toledo and Valencia (which has a regional law).

Meanwhile, on Jan. 1 a national law took effect to protect the partner who did not sign the lease when an unmarried couple lives together. If the renter moves or dies, first dibs now go to "the person who has been cohabiting with the lessee in a similar affective relationship to that of a spouse, regardless of sexual orientation, for at least the two previous years."

Anti-discrimination laws possible in Greece

GREECE—Greece may ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, the gay group EOK reports.

The group is working on the matter with the minister of justice and is encouraged at the response. Most gay Greeks stay closeted and don't understand why there should be gay organizations, EOK noted. Nonetheless, the group recently launched a weekly radio program and is publishing a newsletter.

Dutch pass anti-gay discrimination law

THE NETHERLANDS—The Netherlands recently passed a new law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment (hiring, recruitment, salary, promotion and firing), education, and the provision of goods and services, reported THE EUROLETTER, a publication of Denmark's National Organization for Gays and Lesbians.

Euro commission takes on gay sex case

FRANCE—The European Commission on Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, Jan. 18 accepted the case of three gay British men who were jailed for having consensual sado-masochistic sex. The arrests were part of British police's infamous "Operation Spanner" in which 16 men were charged with assault in 1990 as a result of SM sex play in their own homes. They were sentenced to up to four-and-a-half years in prison. The sentences were reduced on appeal.

British courts said consent is not a defense in sex acts where bodily harm is committed. The European Commission disagreed. The commission will try to settle the case directly with the British government. If that fails, it will go to the commission's committee of ministers or the European Court of Human Rights.

"The European Court has recognized that the individual in Britain has a right to privacy with respect to their sexual lives," one of the men, Roland Jaggard, 47, told Reuters. The other defendants are Tony Brown, 58, and Colin Laskey, 52. The European Commission and European Court are part of the Council of Europe, a human-rights organization formed by 33 nations.

Chilean gays call for support on sex laws

CHILE—Chile's Homosexual Liberation Movement (MOVILH) says it needs immediate letters from abroad to support a move to decriminalize sex between men. Lesbian sex is not illegal.

An amendment to the Penal Code was to be considered in January by Parliament's Justice, Legislation and Constitution Commission. It would repeal Article 365, which criminalizes male sex in private. Fax letters to Commission President Sergio Elgueta Barrientos at 011-56-32-232-657 and fax a copy to MOVILH at 011-56-2-633-5234.

Cuban gay refugees seek to immigrate

CUBA—A drag queen living in the U.S. refugee camp at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, talked to the Associated Press in hopes gays in San Francisco would read the article and help him and his friends immigrate to the U.S.

The camp houses people who tried to flee Cuba last year in homemade boats.

The man is one of 21 gays housed apart from the other 1,900 inmates for their own protection, said U.S. Army Capt. David Lee. Lee added that the shows the man and his pals present at the camp are "good," and said the military is trying to get more drag props and supplies for the troupe.

Without transsexuals, Sydney lesbian center loses grant

SYDNEY—A founder of the group working to build a lesbian center in Sydney, Australia, has withdrawn $20,000 of the $30,000 she donated to the project to protest a Dec. 10 vote to ban transsexual lesbians from using the planned space.

Georgina Abrahams told the newspaper CAPITAL Q: "I am heartbroken as the (Lesbian Space Project) was something I put a lot of my love into, but I don't want to be associated with a project that is discriminatory, ... that categorizes people into right and wrong, good and bad.

"There's no place for that in the '90s." About $250,000 has been raised.

Turn to next page

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British Customs seize safe-sex videos

LONDON—A tape of international safer-sex videos was seized and branded obscene by British Customs in late December en route to the organization Gay Men Fighting AIDS. The tape contained winning entries from the San Francisco Gay Safer Sex Video Awards, said the newspaper CAPITAL GAY. GMFA Chairman Peter Scott commented: "This demonstrates how organizations like Gay Men Fighting AIDS are fighting more than just the virus. Every day we're faced by a new example of ignorance, discrimination and homophobia."

Canadians support gay co-workers

CANADA—Half of Canadians told pollsters they would speak out in support of a coworker if the employee faced discrimination based on sexual orientation, reported Ottawa's CAPITAL XTRA!. And 81 percent said an out gay or lesbian would face discrimination at work, according to the poll conducted by the Angus Reid company. The survey also found that three in four Canadians would feel somewhat comfortable having a gay friend and one in three have one.

Romanian gay groups disband

ROMANIA—Both of Romania's gay organizations have died, victims of infighting and societal disapproval, according to the International Lesbian and Gay Association. "Total Relations" was formed in February 1993 and "Group 200" in February 1994.

"The public still clings to the idea of a traditional, orthodox Romania that can stay uncorrupted by foreign-inspired deviances and perversions," according to minutes from ILGA's European Regional Conference held in Finland.

"Publicly self-identified gay men in Romania are few," the report said. "Publicly self-identified lesbians are virtually nonexistent. (T)he very existence of ... any homosexual community which might come to the attention of the police is tenuous and inchoate at best."

Europride '95 site in air

EUROPE—The annual EuroPride celebration will be in Copenhagen in 1996 and Paris in 1997, the European Pride Organizers Association announced at year's end. A site for 1995 has not been chosen. Last year's EuroPride in Amsterdam lost close to $300,000.

Serbian AIDS situation dismal

SERBIA—Government response to AIDS in Serbia amounts to nothing more than a periodic release of statistics, reports the Belgrade publication WOMEN IN BLACK NOTEBOOKS. Two hundred forty people have died of the disease and 298 are living with AIDS. Of the people alive, 206 shared needles, 29 were infected via straight sex, 16 are hemophiliacs, and eight were infected from gay sex, the statistics show. The news report said the incidence of AIDS from gay-male sex was probably vastly underreported.

"From time to time the number of people deceased, ill and infected by HIV is announced publicly and that is all," the article said. "That is the end of the state's care. In Serbia condoms were never available in public places and free distribution of syringes is for us equal to science fiction."

AIDS rampant in Cambodia

CAMBODIA—Ninety-two percent of prostitutes and 21 percent of soldiers in Cambodia's Banteay Meanchey province are HIV-positive, the LIGHT OF CAMBODIA newspaper reported Jan. 9.

The region's venereal-disease authorities attributed the statistics to blood tests it has been running on prostitutes, soldiers, police and land-mine removal teams.

Balkan gays network

CROATIA—Info AIDS in Zagreb, Croatia, and the gay group Arkadia in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, are forming a gay-activist network for the Balkan states. The network will receive and dispatch information, make referrals, and build coalitions with non-gay associations.

"The most important aspect of the network ... will be its contribution to the grassroots initiatives that are sprouting throughout the region," said Info AIDS' Amir Hanusic.

Write Amir Hanusic, Croatian Ministry of Health National Committee for AIDS Prevention, Nad Lipom 14, HR-41000 Zagreb, Croatia. Or Jelica Todosijevic, Brace Baruh 11, 11000 Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Internet: Jelica.Todosijevic@zamir-bg.ztn.zer.de

Baltics join to fight AIDS

EUROPE—Medical centers and associations serving gays and HIV-positives have joined together in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Finland to form SELL, an HIV self-help and education organization.

AIDS work is particularly difficult in Lithuania because of the power of the Catholic Church, which considers gay sex and condom use to be sins, said gay activist Alexander Zolotuchin of the Lithuanian Movement for Sexual Equality. Estonia has 40 reported HIV cases and Lithuania 26.

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National News Roundup

'Barney Fag' remark stirs flap in Congress

WASHINGTON—During a press briefing Jan. 27, Republican Majority Leader of the House Rep. Dick Armey of Texas called openly gay Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., "Barney Fag," a remark he says was "just a mistake" and not a slur.

Responding to a reporter's question about Frank's criticism of House Speak Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., Armey responded, "I like peace and quiet and I don't need to listen to Barney Fag ... Barney Frank haranguing in my ear because I made a few bucks off a book I worked on."

Armey later told Frank he never intended to use the word "fag" and said he has trouble "with alliteration." THE NEW YORK TIMES noted that Armey, "flushed with anger," took the House floor to explain his comment, criticizing the media for treating the comment as an intentional attack.

Frank said he wasn't entirely satisfied with Armey's explanation. "I've heard my name mispronounced a number of ways, but people who start out to say 'Frank' rarely say 'fag' as a purely random act," Frank said. "I think it was reflective of the fact that there are people on the right wing of the Republican Party who have said to Dick Armey and others, 'Why are you letting a fag like that give you this grief?'"

Other House Democrats also went on the attack, denouncing Armey's remarks, and even White House spokesman Michael McCurry said, "It's dispiriting when that type of extreme language is used in public discourse."

"It was not an attack," Armey said later on the floor of the House. "It was not even a Freudian slip. I have worked with Congressman Frank in the past. I consider him a friend. I am disappointed that the media and others would take this incident and turn it into a firestorm ... a firestorm."

National gay organizations have condemned the slur and are demanding an apology.

Gingrich promises hearings to homophobe

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has promised that the U.S. House will hold hearings requested by anti-gay extremist Lou Sheldon, leader of the Traditional Values Coalition based in California. At a town meeting in Kennesaw, Ga., Gingrich said, "if we have a one-day hearing on whether or not taxpayer money is being spent to promote things that are literally grotesque, that that's a legitimate request."

Sheldon requested hearings over public funding of AIDS prevention programs, federal control of public schools and gay youth. He has pushed to cut all federal funding from schools that offer impartial counseling on HIV/AIDS, anti-gay violence and teen suicide, according to the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

No date has been scheduled for the hearings.

Lesbian/gay officials at White House meeting

WASHINGTON—In what many observers say is clearly an effort by the Clinton administration to mend badly damaged fences with lesbian and gay voters, some 30 gay/lesbian elected officials from around the U.S. have been invited to a meeting at the White House in late February or early March. "We want them [administration officials] to give us some indication that, yes, they do care about us, that we are an important community, an important part of their constituency," said San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal, who was asked to put the meeting of elected officials together. "At the same time, we also want to hear that they're not going to be giving in to the far right."

Ideally, Leal thinks those who should be present would be Health & Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Attorney General Janet Reno and White House AIDS policy coordinator Patsy Fleming. But the administration has made no commitments about who actually will attend the meeting. Activists would also like Clinton to show up for the meeting.

Chicago Local School Council member Marc Loveless is reportedly among invited officials.

Supreme Court to review Boston parade case

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court announced Jan. 6 that it would review whether the sponsors of the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade should be allowed to ban gays from the parade. The South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, which has sponsored the parade for years, in 1994 decided to cancel the parade rather than allow the Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston to march. The city then sponsored the parade, and allowed the gay group to join.

The Veterans Council has argued that lower court rulings ordering that the gay group be included violated its right to free speech. The Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled in July that the parade was a public accommodation rather than an act of expression, and was not covered by the 1st Amendment.

The U.S. Supreme Court's last rulings on gay-related cases were the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision, which upheld Georgia's sodomy statute, and a 1987 case in which it ruled that the Gay Games could be prevented from using the word "Olympics" as part of its name.

Meanwhile, the Boston Irish-American Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Group challenge a federal district judge's ruling earlier in January that said the South Boston Allies War Veterans Council can hold an anti-gay protest march instead of its usual St. Patrick's Day parade there. A spokesperson for the Irish gay group said its members would join in a St. Patrick's Day parade in nearby Cambridge instead.

Steffan won't appeal to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON—In what activists say is a strategic legal move, former U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman Joseph Steffan in January ended his six-year court fight to win his diploma and commission as a Navy ensign after being dismissed by officials at the Academy because he acknowledged being gay.

The U.S. Court of Appeals dealt Steffan's case a serious blow in November when it ruled 7-3 that the Navy acted properly in dismissing Steffan just six weeks before he was scheduled to graduate from the Naval Academy in 1987. The decision by Steffan and the attorneys representing

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aids & health
NEWS UPDATE

U.S. AIDS funding in doubt

As part of the cutbacks in federal government spending, Congress and the Clinton administration have opted to cut a number of social programs and replace them instead with grants to state and local governments. Although the plan would put control over the money closer to home, it also comes with overall budget cuts, including a proposed $800-million cut from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Of primary concern to AIDS care providers are two programs: Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) and the Ryan White CARE Act.

For fiscal year 1996, HOPWA will be preserved as a line item in the Clinton budget, meaning it's still an administration priority, but making it vulnerable to line cuts by a conservative Congress. Under Clinton's plan for reorganizing HUD and other programs, though, other funding will be given in the form of block grants to cities and states for housing projects, rent subsidies and other assistance for housing. The local and state governments would submit their plans for using the grant money to HUD, and be allocated funds accordingly.

That could be beneficial in Chicago, according to Michelle Mascaro, policy associate with the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

"People with AIDS are the number one special population for housing in Chicago, and we've worked to get a place at the table," she said. "There's an opportunity for us to get more money, but we're not sure where it would go—to the city Department of Health, or Housing. There's concern that we might have to compete citywide for the money."

Under the new program, HUD would serve as a watchdog to see that the block grant money was spent as allocated. But the overall plan has national AIDS funding advocates concerned that the money will not go where it is needed most, and that state governments will spread out the money geographically instead of to areas of greatest need, usually cities. Because lobbying for the money would be done at a state level, the struggle for funding would "have to be fought over and over again in every state," said Christine Lubinski, acting director of the AIDS Action Council, a national group.

"Block grants leave states on their own to ensure adequate representation," she said. "Without a federal government role in administering programs, the ability to collect accurate and consistent data in order to evaluate the efficacy of a program is undermined."

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, which provides funding for medical care, legal services, prescription drugs, counseling and other support services for people with HIV/AIDS, is a five-year program started in 1990 that must be reauthorized before it expires in September. In late 1994, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., introduced reauthorization legislation, but no action was taken.

"We believe the Care Act will be reauthorized, but our concern is that it will come with different formulae, giving more money to states and less to cities," Mascaro said. "The AIDS community has to approach congressional leaders and regain the clout we lost when the Republicans took over. It's going to take a lot of work."

Rep. John Porter, R-Evanston, supports full funding of the Care Act and will play a key role in convincing other Republicans to support its reauthorization, Mascaro said.

In Chicago, two AIDS-related programs are likely to be targets of Congressional cuts, the SUN-TIMES reported Jan. 11. According to Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., a $2-million grant toward the proposed $30-million AIDS clinic to be run by Cook County Hospital and Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's on the West Side, and a $1-million grant to the city to rehabilitate housing for 50-100 AIDS patients, are both vulnerable. Both are "special purpose grants" proposed by Illinois Democrats in the House, along with programs for community services and the elderly.

briefly

▼ As many as **a billion immune system cells are made and destroyed each day** in the body's fight against HIV, according to a study published in NATURE in January, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported. Previously, researchers thought HIV gradually infected the body, but this study showed that the virus replicates millions of times each day, and can develop resistance to drugs within days. As the battle continues, the number of immune cells gradually dwindles, while the virus particles increase.

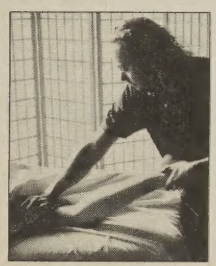
▼ People with HIV are **most contagious during the first two months** after initial HIV infection—the same period of time during which they are least able to tell they have been infected, according to a University of Michigan study.

▼ The Food & Drug Administration has allowed Epitope Inc. to begin marketing the first **HIV test that uses saliva instead of blood** to detect the virus. Known as OraSure, it detects HIV antibodies, not the virus itself, which is not found in saliva.

▼ Duke University researchers planned to begin testing in late January for a **vaccine using artificial pieces of HIV** to stimulate the human immune system. The project, backed by $4 million in federal grants, has worked to dissect the virus shell at the atomic level.

▼ Activists in the nation's capital say the **District of Columbia** is so late in making **payments to community-based AIDS services** that many agencies have been forced to shut down and others may have to close soon. Chris Bates, director of the D.C. Care Consortium, said Inner City AIDS Network, DeafPride, and a drug/alcohol abuse hotline for people with HIV/AIDS have all closed.

—Jane Lowers & GayNet



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Spectrum pharmacists will consult with guests who bring records or bottles of their current medications, and offer in-depth information about how the medicines work, review interactions and side effects. Information about current clinical trials will also be available.

nutrition workshops

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1:00 pm:
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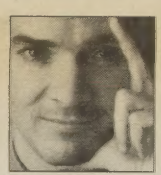

special guest speaker sean strub

3:00 - 3:45 pm with a question and answer session following.

Publisher and executive editor of POZ Magazine, AIDS activist, author, playwright, and political candidate Sean Strub, who was diagnosed as HIV-positive 15 years ago, will speak about how contrary to conventional wisdom, people with AIDS can and do lead fulfilling and productive lives.

whole foods market chef demonstrates macrobiotic cooking

Every 1/2 hour from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Whole Foods Market chef Michael Maldonado, will be demonstrating the preparation of delicious and healthy Macrobiotic recipes from the Quixotic Cafe.

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NATIONAL from 12

him not to appeal that ruling means it will be a year or more before any of the challenges to the Pentagon's anti-gay policy can come before the U.S. Supreme Court. But on the heels of the appeals court ruling just a few months ago, Steffan and his attorneys with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund said a discharge challenge under the new "don't ask, don't tell" Pentagon policy may be legally more defensible than one such as his against the previous blanket ban. Steffan called it a "difficult and emotional decision" not to appeal the case to the Supreme Court after so many years fighting the legal battle.

A federal appeals court Jan. 3 ordered a lower court judge to rule quickly on the case of six servicemembers challenging the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals said Judge Eugene Nickerson in Brooklyn shouldn't block the government from carrying out the policy without finding it likely that the plaintiffs could win their suit. If Nickerson does not issue decisions by March 31, the appeals court will lift its embargo and allow the military to continue action against the six, Associated Press reported.

Helms targets workers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Arch homophobe Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., in January introduced two bills targeting the rights of gay federal workers. The bills, S.23 and S.25, are the first of the new Congress to seek to limit the rights of gays and lesbians. S.23 would give an exemption from workplace non-discrimination policies to workers who express anti-gay sentiments. S.25 would deny gay/lesbian federal employee groups the right to meet on federal property as do other employee groups, including those for Blacks and women.

PBS, NEA face cuts

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congress Jan. 24 began hearings to determine the financial future of the National Endowment for the Arts, sending arts advocates around the country into a flurry of lobbying expected to last well into February. House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other conservative leaders have said that the government has no business funding artists and arts agencies, and attempted in 1994 to eliminate all funding for the NEA. The NEA has long been a favorite target of conservatives, who emphasized grants like one to a Minnesota theatre that gave $150 to Ron Athey for HIV performance art involving tainted blood. Public television, which gets $285.6 million from the federal government each year, is also a target, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported. PBS received 14 percent of its funding from the federal government, and has aired programs including Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* and *In the Life*. The rest of PBS's budget comes from subscribers, state money and private funds.

Arts advocates are portraying arts organizations as a $37-billion industry employing 1.3 million people, and relying on the government for only 1 or 2 percent of its total budget, in an effort to appeal to the conservative Congress. Several organizations have set up lobbying hotlines: Arts Alliance, (900) 370-90000; National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, (800) 651-1575.

Iowa debates gay info in schools

DES MOINES—Right-wing organizers have mobilized statewide in Iowa following plans from the Des Moines School Board to include information about homosexuality in the district's curriculum. The plan, proposed by the board's Sexual Orientation Advisory Subcommittee, would include teachings about the contributions of gay, lesbian and bisexual people and discuss homophobia. It was approved in 1991, along with a non-discrimination policy.

In December, Bill Horn, a member of The Report, which publishes the anti-gay LAMBDA REPORT and produced *The Gay Agenda* video, moved to Des Moines to work to undermine the program. He ignited public discussion of the issue on a radio talk-show Dec. 22; on Jan. 2, 3,000 people attended an anti-gay rally organized by Horn, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Jan. 3, hundreds of residents attended a school board hearing on the proposal.

Horn is pressuring conservatives the Republican-controlled Iowa state legislature to pass a measure barring any reference to homosexuality in public schools.

At a school board meeting Jan. 24, Superintendent Gay Wegenke said the board would not immediately implement the proposed changes.

School Board member Jonathan Wilson, wearing a bullet-proof vest, announced at the meeting that he is gay. Wilson, a school board member for the past 12 years, has a daughter in the school system, and a son who recently graduated.

Wilson said the fact that he and his family has been threatened with violence, and that he had to wear the protective clothing in making his announcement, demonstrated how badly in need of education about sexual orientation issues the state and its schools are.

Florida voters defeat anti-gay measure

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—Voters in West Palm Beach Jan. 11 defeated an attempt to remove the city's anti-gay discrimination protections. By a 56-44 margin, voters rejected a piece of legislation that would have removed a section of the city's human rights charter including gays among groups protected against discrimination. The section was added in 1994.

In Tampa Bay, voters will decide March 7 on a local ballot measure to repeal a section of the city's human-rights ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

D.C. Court denies gays marriage license

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The District of Columbia Court of Appeals Jan. 19 ruled that the district did not illegally discriminate against a gay couple when it refused them a marriage license. In 1992, a D.C. Superior Court found that the city's "different gender" marriage requirement didn't violate the rights of Craig Robert Dean and Patrick Gerard Gill. The appeals court ruling upheld that decision, which quoted the Bible and a law dictionary definition of marriage, according to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is pursuing the right of gays to marry in a Hawaii case.

"Denying marriage rights to lesbians and gay men is discrimination, pure and simple," said Lambda's Evan Wolfson. "Just as inter-racial marriages were once prohibited and later allowed, marriages between same-sex couples will soon be accepted and sanctioned."

Anti-gay measure on ballot in Maine

AUGUSTA, Maine—Concerned Maine Families, an anti-gay organization, filed more than 60,000 signatures to put an anti-gay initiative on the state ballot in November. The measure would limit the Maine Human Rights Act to include only categories that it already contains, such as race, color, sex and age. It is unclear whether it would repeal Portland's anti-gay discrimination law and the gay portion of the state's hate crime law. Gov. Angus King said he would fight the referendum. A group called Maine Won't Discriminate said it will start a door-to-door campaign against the measure.

Notre Dame gay group kicked off campus

SOUTH BEND, Ind.—Administrators at the University of Notre Dame/St. Mary's Jan. 23 told the Gay and Lesbian Students Alliance that it could no longer meet on school property. The group formed in 1984 and applied for recognition by the school in 1985. In 1986, the school denied the group recognition, which would allow it to meet on school property, post notices of events on campus and advertise in the school paper.

The school counseling center allowed the group to meet in an unused room, GALA spokesman John Blanford said. At a meeting Jan. 23, the office of student affairs told the group that it could no longer use the counseling office. The group is the only gay outreach on the conservative Catholic campus, and in December received a $2,000 grant from the Chicago Resource Center.

Allstate offers insurance to gay couple

NEW YORK—A gay couple who have lived together 10 years was awarded a joint "Personal Umbrella Policy" by Allstate Insurance Company after being initially denied because they were not legally married. James Colgate and David Fields applied for the policy in 1993, and pursued it after initially being denied. With Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, they argued that Allstate's refusal to grant the policy violated the state's law prohibiting marital status discrimination and discrimination between people in the same class of insurance risk. The policy was granted in mid-December.

Abuse may lead to problems for gay kids

ITHACA, N.Y.—Gay kids may be at higher risk for behavior problems because of stresses placed on them by their peers, but their levels of self-esteem are comparable to their straight contemporaries, according to a study from Cornell University. In reviewing literature on abuses of gay and lesbian youth, psychologist Ritch Savin-Williams found that up to 75 percent of young gays and lesbians have been verbally or physically abused because of their sexual orientation. The abuse may cause stress, school-related problems, substance abuse, running away, prostitution or suicide, he said.

"Nevertheless, research indicates that there's nothing inherently mentally disturbed or psychologically unhealthy about being gay, lesbian or bisexual and that such youths show no difference from heterosexual youths in self-esteem," he said. "If there is a higher rate of social or psychological problems, it is most likely because of the stigma, prejudice and stereotypes concerning same-sex attractions."

The study will be published in the JOURNAL OF CONSULTING AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY.

National groups seek anti-right strategies

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Representatives from gay, civil-rights and other progressive organizations met in January to develop strategies to counteract the radical-right presence in the 104th Congress. Led by Rev. Jesse Jackson, representatives of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Human Rights Campaign Fund and National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum met with representatives from the ACLU, NAACP, National Urban League, NOW, Planned Parenthood, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and labor organizations. In particular, the groups are concerned that Republican plans to cut taxes and the deficit and increase defense spending will result in massive cuts in AIDS funding, social security and other health programs, as well as arts programs.

In other news, Robin Kane, who left NGLTF in August, has rejoined the group as spokeswoman. Former NGLTF director of public information David M. Smith has joined HRCF as its communications director.

Teen lesbian convicted of killing mother

HENDERSON, Texas—A 15-year-old has been convicted of the shooting death of her mother, who disapproved of the girl's lesbian relationship, AP reported. Jurors Jan. 12 listened to the girl's written confession, in which she said she put on headphones so she would not hear her mother as she shot her. The girl said her girlfriend urged her to kill so they could run away; the girlfriend denied the charge. The defendant faces a sentence of up to 40 years in prison following a mental competency examination. If she is declared incompetent, the judge can declare a mistrial.

Gay murderer says he's 'battered spouse'

MIAMI—A gay man with a history of theft and other arrests was convicted of murder charges, despite claims that he was a "battered spouse." George Cobo, 56, or Miami, was convicted of killing four New Yorkers, including two gay men and an Indian couple, with his boyfriend.

Cobo said he was forced into the murders by his boyfriend, Tony Simpson, 23, of Cedartown, Ga., who allegedly beat Cobo and threatened to leave him for a woman, SOUTHERN VOICE reported. The two had dined with "Prince" Chitresh Khedker, who claimed to have descended from Indian royalty, and his wife in their Manhattan apartment in April 1993. The Khedkers were later found strangled and suffocated. Prosecutors in Cobo's trial, which began in November, charged that Cobo and Simpson had stolen their jewelry and sold it in Florida. The two were later charged with the murders of music conductor Milton Setzer, 60, and his partner, actor Eric Price, 26.

Cobo was scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 23. Simpson is still awaiting trial.

Police raid S.F. benefit

SAN FRANCISCO—Some 40 San Francisco police officers and about 20 state Alcohol Beverage Control agents raided a New Year's Eve AIDS fundraiser, arresting 11 people and setting the stage for up to three official inquiries and possibly a series of lawsuits.

Party-goers have charged that during the raid police officers covered their badges, roughed people up, used unnecessary choke-holds, punched people in the face, made anti-gay remarks, and performed illegal searches.

Police officials have denied the charges, saying the raid of the fundraising party for Visual Aid, an organization that helps artists with AIDS preserve and promote their works, wasn't anti-gay at all and was just a "routine part" of several raids of "illegal nightclubs" conducted the same night in the South of Market section of the city.

Several party-goers told reporters and city officials that officers used expressions like "fucking faggots" during the raid, punched at least two people at the event, and refused to identify themselves or hid their badges, and seized money, lighting and musical equipment illegally.

IN BRIEF

▼ With the backing of activist/producer Robin Tyler and Metropolitan Community Church founder the Rev. Troy Perry, plans have been announced for Gay & Lesbian Freedom Riders to bus in up to 1,000 lesbians and gay men to Ovett, Miss., where the lesbian/feminist Camp Sister Spirit has been the object of repeated attacks by hostile locals. The Freedom Riders will be coordinated with local groups and are scheduled to arrive in Ovett May 26-30. Contact the MCC offices in Los Angeles at (213) 464-5100, or Robin Tyler's L.A. offices at (818) 893-4075.

▼ Despite being twice rejected by voters the Oregon Citizens Alliance in December again filed papers to begin collecting signatures for a proposed statewide ballot initiative to bar minority rights to lesbians, gays and bisexuals. Titled the "Minority Status & Child Protection Act of 1996," the measure is nearly identical to one that Oregon voters narrowly rejected in the Nov. 8 election. The ballot proposal would bar all public agencies from recognizing sexual behavior as a civil-rights classification, prohibits spending public funds on anything that shows homosexuality in a positive manner, would prevent recognition of same-sex couples or partners benefits, and would restrict other areas of public policy based on sexual orientation.

▼ A Salt Lake City man who attacked two lesbians was sentenced Jan. 10 to a year in jail. Judge David S. Young, who was criticized earlier for giving a light sentence to a gay man's murderer, sentenced Gilberto Arredondo to a year in jail after he pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and assault charges for attacking a lesbian and her companion on two occasions. Arredondo was arrested under the state's hate crime law, but because the statute does not include sexual orientation, Arredondo was able to plead guilty to lesser charges, the AP reported.

▼ Duke University Jan. 3 adopted a policy to extend benefits to gay partners of university employees. About 30 other major universities, in-

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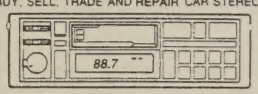
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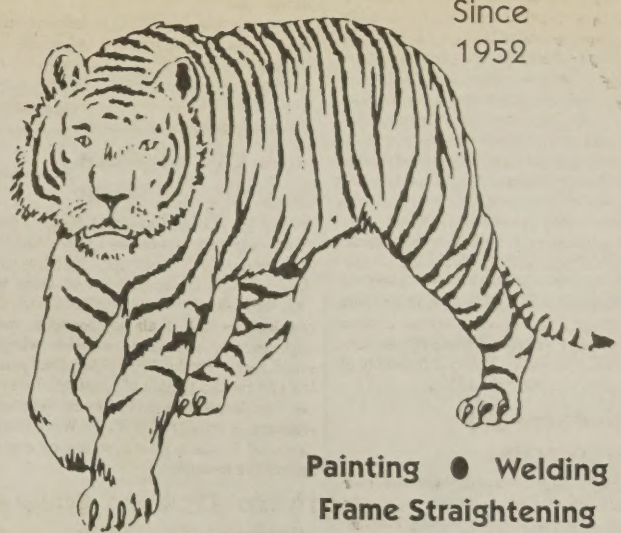
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LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

The **Lesbian Community Cancer Project "Coming Out Against Cancer"** gala is Feb. 11 at the South Shore Cultural Center, 561-4662. **Seraiah Carol** sings, and there will be dancing, a silent auction, & hors d'oeuvres ($35 advance, $40 at door). There's lots of free parking.

"A Commitment to Love," Chicago's gay wedding fair, will benefit **Horizons Community Services** again this year, and is Sunday, Feb. 5, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Ann Sather's, 929 Belmont.

Harriet Tubman Place, a Far West Side social-service agency, has been awarded an HIV prevention grant from the **Chicago Dept. of Health** to start a drop-in center for sexual minority young people (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning) and their families and friends. The Austin neighborhood-based project offers three different weekly drop-in programs. While this will target four mostly African-American neighborhoods (Austin, East and West Garfield and North Lawndale), any young person is welcome. Call 626-1443.

Chicago House has hired another executive director: **Charles Hoag,** who starts Feb. 6. Hoag currently works at Community Builders, Inc., a Boston-based affordable housing organization, and he has more than 20 years of residential and social-service experience.

The **Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Assoc.** and **Left Bank Culture Club** host ***Gay Cabaret II,*** Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Nineteenth Century Women's Club, 178 N. Forest. Performers include **Marilyn Fox, Robert Klein Engler, Dan Ursini, Jennifer Landfield, and Frank Nigrelli**. Tix $10 at the door, $7 advance; (708) 383-4700.

Angels in America and **Absolut Vodka** present ***Absolut Cabaret,*** music and performance featuring Chicago cast members of ***Angels*** **(John Herrera, Philip Earl Johnson, Reg Flowers)** and ***Forever Plaid,*** Feb. 12 at Royal George. Proceeds will benefit **Season of Concern,** the theatre community's AIDS charity. Call 849-2111 for tix ($25).

The **Horizons Community Services** 6th Human First gala, "The Gay 90s," is March 18 at the Palmer House; 472-6469. **Armando Smith,** who has also been a hard-working volunteer for Horizons and numerous organizations, and **Nan Schaffer,** founder of OUTLINES and supporter of many organizations, will receive Human First Awards.

The **Smelts,** Chicago's mostly gay and lesbian swim club/team, has designated three beneficiaries for ***Swim Your Heart Out V,*** the group's annual swim-a-thon and pool party Feb. 26: **Open Hand, Stop AIDS Chicago** and **Lesbian Community Cancer Project**; call 281-4692.

There's a new support group for gay and lesbian employees at **Quaker Oats. SafePlace** meets Thursdays noon-1 p.m. at the IBM cafeteria; call Bob Singer at 222-8750.

AIDS activist **Sean Strub,** publisher of **POZ** magazine, will speak at the Feb. 4 grand opening of **Spectrum,** a new integrated treatment center for people with HIV/AIDS, at 1300 W. Belmont. Workshops, demonstrations and discussions will all be available free from noon-5 p.m..

Cook County Board President John Stroger honored outstanding community leaders to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The Jan. 13 event included **Rick Garcia (Illinois Federation for Human Rights)**.

Cook County Treasurer Edward Rosewell Jan. 1 issued an executive order requiring all financial institutions with Cook County deposits to sign a pledge not to discriminate based on sexual orientation in their lending policies.

—Tracy Baim

EVENTS ROUNDUP

A brief look at upcoming Chicago-area events--see NIGHTLINES WEEKLY for comprehensive community & entertainment listings.

Wed., Feb. 1

Church of the Resurrection MCC "Holy Homosexuals: The Truth About Being Gay or Lesbian and Christian" book discussion 7p, 5540 S. Woodlawn, 288-1535. Wednesdays in Feb.

National Gay & Lesbian Journalists Assoc./Chicago party at Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan, 7:30p, 509-5143

Thurs., Feb. 2

Gay and Lesbian Support Group Far South Suburbs, 7:30p, (708) 748-5400

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America/Chicago meeting at Ann Sather, 929 W. Belmont, 7p. 752-0058

University of Notre Dame Andrew Sullivan, openly gay editor of NEW REPUBLIC, speaks on The Gay Catholic Paradox, 7:30p, sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and St. Mary's. (219) 287-6665

Friday, Feb. 3

Columbia College Minority Journalism Job Fair representatives from Black, Hispanic, Asian and Gay and Lesbian journalist organizations, thru Feb. 4, free 623 S. Wabash, 1st floor, 633-1600, ext. 284

Sat., Feb. 4

Congregation Or Chadash 19th anniv., Julie Mai's Le Bistro, 5025 Clark, $25, 7p.

NAMES Proj. AIDS Quilt quilting bee, 12-3, 472-4460

Spectrum opening of integrated HIV/AIDS treatment center, 1300 W. Belmont, guest speaker Sean Strub, activist and publisher of POZ mag., 12-5p, 880-1460

Voices Gathering for Peace sponsored by Peace and Justice Coalition (W. Suburbs) and Int'l Student Org., at College of DuPage, including workshops on homophobia, apartheid, careers, (708) 665-5765

Sun., Feb. 5

8th IMPACT Dinner "Just Equal Rights" with former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts, at Chicago Hilton and Towers ballroom$150, reception 5:30, dinner 6:30, speaker 7:30p, 528-5868

A Commitment to Love 2nd annual gay wedding fair, benefit for Horizons, 4:30-7:30p, with more than 30 vendors ranging from photography to floral, free. 929 W. Belmont, 784-6956

Lutherans Concerned/Chicago 20th anniv. dinner, 3p/342-1647

Open and Out gay and lesbian open mic, Le Cafe, 3343 N. Clark, 7p, hosted by Trish Koch, Lesbigay Radio, 472-7340

Prairie Moon Read Out for feminist writers, 10a, 8 N. Dunton, Arlington Hts, (708) 342-9608

Professionals Over 30 monthly social, 6p, Ann Sather, 929 W. Belmont, 404-1117

Mon., Feb. 6

NBC: ***Serving in Silence, The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story,*** 8-10p, Channel 5, starring Glenn Close.

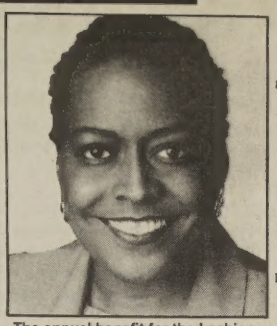
Paris Dance and Lesbigay Radio Public showing of *Serving in Silence.* Starts 7 p.m., with comments by Miriam Ben-Shalom, who fought to stay in military, & veteran Larry McKeon. Free, but donations will benefit GLAAD and Ben-Shalom's legal fees.

Tues., Feb. 7

Gerber/Hart Library Gay men's fiction group 7:30p, *Death in Venice,* 3352 Paulina, 883-3003

Travel Spirit gay/lesbian travel 2512 N. Lincoln, 7p, 975-0055

Former Ore. Gov. Roberts is the speaker for the Feb. 5 IMPACT gala.



The annual benefit for the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, "Coming Out Against Cancer," is Saturday, Feb. 11 at the South Shore Cultural Center; 561-4662. Singer Seraiah Carol (pictured) performs.

WTTW Ch. 11 *In the Life* Black History Month, Dr. Betty Shabazz, wife of Malcolm X, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, Barbara Smith, Margarethe Cammermeyer, & much more, 11p

Thurs., Feb. 9

Honoring HERstory poetic tribute to achievements and contributions of African-American women, sponsored by Chicago NOW, 180 N. Wabash, 6:30p, 922-0025.

Jump Start Your Heart kick-off for Hearts weekend, 10p, Vortex, benefits Howard Brown Health Center, $5 at door

Women and Children First Patricia Bell-Scott, *Life Notes: Personal Writing by Contemporary Black Women,* 7:30p

Friday, Feb. 10

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Michael Feinstein and CSO salute the American popular song, with music by Bernstein, Cole Porter, others. $20-60, 435-6666

Gay Cabaret II musical performance by Jenny and Her Friends, plus many other performers, spons. by Oak Park Area Gay and Lesbian Assoc., Left Bank Culture Club. 178 N. Forest, 7:30p, $10, tix: Women & Children, People Like Us, Left Bank, Pride Agenda (708) 383-4700

Hearts, Strings and Flowers Hearts cocktail party, buffet, silent auction, 7p, Intercontinental Hotel, 505 N. Michigan, benefits Open Hand, The Eye Clinic, Women's AIDS Program, $125, 296-6666

Unity Sisterhood Womyn movie night, 8-, $10, 1925 Thome: *Tiny & Ruby, The Families We Choose, Mother Teresa.*

Sat., Feb. 11

8th Hearts Party HIV/AIDS benefit dance party at Congress Theatre in Bucktown, benefits Test Positive Aware, tickets $35 through Ticketmaster, 559-1212, at Unabridged, GayMart, People Like Us, TPA office, $45 cash at door., info: 404-3784

Lesbian Community Cancer Project Coming Out Against Cancer benefit, 8p at South Shore Cultural Center, with Seraiah Carol, dancing, silent auction, 7059 South Shore Drive, $35 in advance, $40 at door, 561-4662

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse forum on lesbian relationship to businesses and institutions in the community, 8:30p, 1545 W. Morse, drug, alcohol-free, 988-4631

Young, Professional Gay Men social club, 4p, (800) 281-7127

Sun., Feb. 12

AXIOS! brunch discussion of gay politics, with IMPACT director Tom Swift, 1p, 3210 W. Irving Park, $14, 477-3097

Barnes and Noble gay author Geoffrey Mark Fieldman, reading from *First Lady of Song: Ella Fitzgerald for the record,* 5p, 659 Diversey, (708) 263-1409

Mon., Feb. 13

Lesbigay Radio Chicago and Improv Chicago *A Night of Gay Laughter* starring Jason Stuart and the Wilde Boys, benefits Howard Brown Health Center/Rena Lozins Ticket Hotline and Ill. Federation for Human Rights, 8p, $15; 828-0900 for tix, 973-3999 for info.

Wed., Feb. 15

Berlin Women Obsession 5-year anniversary party

Lesbigay Radio and North End Lesbigay Talent Search, 3733 N. Halsted, 9p, $10 entry fee, celebrity judges and talent buyers; cash prizes; 973-3999.

P-form Feminisms: Women, Change and Art, panel discussion with Rossina Calderon-Vera, Donna Rose, Yvonne Welbon, Barbara DeGenevieve, Ayanna Udongo. 756 N. Milwaukee, 8p, $3, 666-7737

Randolph St. Gallery Feminism: Comodification and identity politics, panel discussion, 8p, 756 N. Milwaukee, 666-7737

Thurs., Feb. 16

Gay/Lesbian Straight Teachers Network Meeting, 7p, Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln, 922-9009.

Friday, Feb. 17

Gay and Lesbian Employees/ Oakton Cmty College "Have a Heart" Dance, Marriot Suites Hotel at O'Hare, 6155 N. River Road, 7p, benefits local AIDS charities, (708) 635-1699

Sat., Feb. 18

Community Response Mardi Gras 5th annual benefit, costume ball, 6:30p, (708) 386-3383

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse Literary Exchange 10th anniv., prose, music, the lives of women of color, 8:30p, 1545 W. Morse, drug, alcohol-free, 988-4631

Sweet Honey in the Rock concert in Indianapolis, (317) 637-2906, children's concert Feb. 19

Windy City Performing Arts An Evening of Broadway fundraiser, at Chicago Cultural Center, entertainment by Windy City Gay Chorus, UNISON, Windy City Slickers, $75, 404-WCGC.

Sun., Feb. 19

Chicago 35 lesbian social grp, dinner at Ann Sather, topic: lesbian dating, with Jenny Alexander, LCSW, 3:30p, $5, 761-8441

Chicago PFLAG Holiday Party, 4:30p, 472-3079

ALSO UPCOMING:

Feb.20: Chicago Improv Gay comedy troupe Boys in the Bathroom, now called **Wilde Boys,** perform at 504 N. Wells, thru Feb. 26, 604-1626

Feb. 24: Greater Chicago Committee 1st anniversary weekend celebration at Midland Hotel, thru Feb. 26, including presentation of 1st annual Bayard Rustin awards Feb. 25. 929-5887

Feb. 26: PFLAG Streamwood new Streamwood chapter 2-4p, (708) 968-9060

Feb. 26: Smelts Swim Your Heart Out V benefit for Open Hand, Stop AIDS and Lesbian Community Cancer Project, events include lap swim, water volleyball, water aerobics, water walk, 1000m swim. 281-4692

March 4: 6th Internat'l Women's Day Dance, Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan, 509-6881

THEATRE

Openings

Feb 2: **The Glass Menagerie**, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the world premiere of Tennessee Williams' classic play here in Chicago, Tess Productions at Red Bones, 728-7447.

Feb 4: **Women Knocking At The Door Once More**, staged reading series presenting five new plays by Chicago women playwrights, directed by women, running on Saturdays thru Mar 4, at Famous Door, free, 404-8283.

Feb 9: **Sweet Bird of Youth,** Tennessee Williams' tragic tale of the elusiveness of fame and the harshness of fate, at Touchstone, thru March 19, 404-4700.

The Trojan Women, Euripides' anti-war tragedy, Thtr. School DePaul, thru Feb 19, 362-8455.

Feb 12: **Gertrude Stein: Each One As She May**, based on Stein's story of Black life *Melanctha*, from *Three Lives*, her ground-breaking portraits of a trio of working-class women. Goodman Studio, 443-3800.

Feb 14 - 19: **Dance Theatre of Harlem**, Arthur Mitchell's world-renowned, neo-classical ballet company, Auditorium, 559-2900.

Feb 15: **Top Girls** by Caryl Churchill, U. Thtr., University of Chicago, thru Feb 18, 702-7300.

Feb 19: **Accelerando** by Lisa Loomer, a romantic comedy with live music, at Zebra Crossing, thru April 1, 248-6401.

Feb 21: **Raisin**, the Nemiroff, Zaltzberg, Woldin, & Brittan musical based on Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin In The Sun*, starring Peabo Bryson, Lynette Hawkins Stephen and Philip Bailey, for one week only, at the New Regal Thtr., 559-1212.

Feb 24: **My 9 Naked Friends** by Kevin Kosik and Kelly Beaman, a musical about a young gay man's life, his friends, and the men he meets, Emerging Artists Project, at Turnaround Thtr., 509-5175.

In Performance

Angels In America, Part I: Millennium Approaches, Part II: Perestroika, Tony Kushner's 'gay fantasia on national themes', at the Royal George. thru Feb 25, 988-9000.

Bitches Factor Thtr./Bailiwick encore presentation of a tale of murder, intrigue and cheerleading in Tubbville, Ohio. 23-character all female play is performed by all-male ensemble, 883-1090.

David Herzog's Marionettes In Concert, Bailiwick Studio, open run, 883-1090.

Fairy Tales by Eric Lane Barnes, 22 songs ranging from the hilarious to the heart-breaking, Sun. Bailiwick thru Feb, 883-1090.

Home Samm-Art Williams' inventive and lyrically expressive comedy, in celebration of Black History month, at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Thtr., thru Feb 5, (708) 328-4540.

In The Deep Heart's Core, mystical cabaret from works of William Butler Yeats, by Joseph Daniel Sobol, Bailiwick Studio, thru Feb 26, 883-1090.

In The Hall of Mirrors, by Sara Reilly, deals with two parallel relationships between David and Elaine, and Maggie and her lover Anna. Retro Thtr. at Zebra Crossing, 271-2190.

Late Nite Catechism, the glorious Maripat Donovan continues her colorful and terribly funny tapestry on Catholic culture at the Ivanhoe, 975-7171.

The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula Le Guin, a musing upon the meaning of gender, sexuality, and society, Lifeline, 761-4477.

The Shanghai Gesture by John Colton, directed by Cecilie D. Keenan, Bailiwick Mainstage, thru March 5, 883-1090.

Steel Kiss, Body Politic Thtr. This brilliant co-production by Mary-Arrchie Thtr. and The Journeymen is based on the 1985 murder of a gay librarian who was beaten to death by four teenagers, not to be missed, thru Feb 26th, 871-3000.

Art/Photo

Aron Packer Gallery *Random Access* new paintings by Will Northerner, 862-5040.

Art Institute of Chicago in celebration of African-American history month, *Force of a Dream: The Drawings of Joseph A. Yoakum*, Feb 11 thru Aug 6; *Gustave Caillebotte: Urban Impressionist* Feb 18 thru May 28; 443-3600.

Beacon Street Gallery *Entering The Dreamtime* art of Aboriginal Australia thru Feb 4, *The '30s, '40s, &'50s... a Midcentury Retrospective* by The Chicago Society of Artists, Feb 12-March 23, (708) 232-2728.

C.J. Jung Institute *Willa Cather's World*, photographs by Lucia Woods, Feb 10 thru Mar 10, (708) 475-4848.

Chicago Cultural Center *Amandla! Celebrating So. Africa* a month long fest of performances, presentations, films, thru Feb., for info 346-3278.

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum *The Amate Tradition: Innovation & Dissent in Mexican Art*, 738-1503.

Museum of Broadcast Communications,in recognition of Black History month, will present a special events and programs detailing the history and contributions of African Americans in broadcasting. For info 629-6000.

Woman Made Gallery *Holy Baloney* art challenging religious doctrine and traditions that harm women and children, thru Feb 11; *Members Only* group exhibition by members of Woman Made, thru Mar 18, 588-4317.

WomanWild 6 Weekend Trunk Shows, 5237 N. Clark, 878-0300: Joan Riise Feb 4-5; Pam Jackson Feb 11-12; LV Jordan Feb 18-19; Diane Bloom Mar 4-5; Chris Rosales Mar 18-19; Feather Spirit Mar 31-Apr 3.

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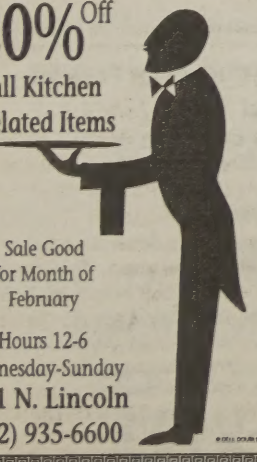

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For more Black History Month Events, see page 22.

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State & Local News Roundup

Candace Gingrich to attend IMPACT dinner, Ore. Gov. Roberts also at Feb. 5 annual benefit

She works for UPS and as a computer technician; he leads the first Republican-controlled Congress in 40 years. She plays rugby; he tells his college students that women have no upper-body strength. She *likes* Hillary Clinton. Despite their differences, Candace and Newt Gingrich have a peaceful relationship as sister and brother, liberal Democrat and conservative Republican.

The discrepancy between them has made her something of a novelty for the gay community and Newt-watchers alike. Feb. 5, she'll join the 8th annual IMPACT dinner as a special guest.

"I've gotten calls for interviews from the gay press and from someone doing a biography on Newt, but not enough that I want to turn off my phone," she said in an interview with OUTLINES.

Suddenly thrust into the spotlight with the rest of the clan when Newt assumed control of the House of Representatives, Candace Gingrich has been candid in television and print interviews about her sexual orientation and political views.

She considers herself a liberal Democrat; the rest of the family falls between her step-brother's conservativism and moderate. They see each other only once or twice a year, during holidays, and stay away from political discussions. She's 28, he's 51 and was out of the house by the time she was born.

"I'd like to hope I can influence Newt's thinking, if not as a voice, at least as a buzzing in his ear," she said. "I hope he'll keep in mind that he has a family member who might benefit or be hurt by bills that he might support."

Gingrich joins keynote speaker Barbara Roberts, former Oregon governor and outspoken opponent to the anti-gay movement in that state, at the IMPACT benefit gala "Just Equal Rights," Sunday, Feb. 5. at the Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan, 6:30 p.m., tix $150, call (312) 528-5868. There will be a fine art silent auction, and presentation of the Alongi Award to local business owners/activists **Ann Christophersen** (Women & Children First Bookstore co-owner) and **Tom Tunney** (Ann Sather's Restaurant owner).

Man convicted of 411 Club murder

One of the alleged killers of 411 Club manager John "Johnny" Conley, who was killed Sept. 20, 1992, was convicted Jan. 26 of first-degree murder, 10 counts of armed robbery, and conspiracy to commit armed robbery, according to Assistant State's Attorney Linas Kelecius, who worked on the case with Kent Sinson. Sentencing of Norman Williams, one of six suspects in the murder of Conley and robbery of numerous patrons, is Feb. 15 before Judge Edward Fiala at 26th and California.

Kelecius said 411 Club owner Lawrence Chambliss was very helpful in encouraging witnesses to appear in court. Five of the suspects have been arrested, and a warrant is out for the sixth person, Ontario Ervin. Demond Boddie and Nathan Green are set to plea in the case Feb. 3, and Bryant Collins' case is up in March. Larry Gullette was the other suspect, and he pleaded guilty Jan. 6 and agreed to testify against the others in exchange for a reduced sentence (he received 16 years for armed robbery).

Kelecius said 411 Club was targeted because it is a gay bar (at 411 E. 63rd, it is frequented mostly by Black gays and lesbians). "They [said they] targeted it for two reasons: 'fags don't call police, fags have a lot of money,'" Kelecius reported. "The people in the bar were great. I have never seen so much cooperation," said Kelecius. "The owner ... rounded everybody up, they were here every day of the trial (in late January)."

Lesbian couples fight adoption rulings

Two lesbian couples who in December were denied adoptions by a Cook County judge have decided to appeal the decision. A second Chicago lesbian couple will appeal a judge's decision to not allow them to adopt one woman's two sons. The couples, one represented by the ACLU, the other by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and Rosemary Mulryan of Mulryan and York, were denied a petition to adopt by Cook County Circuit Court Marjan Staniec in late November.

This will be the first time the Illinois Appellate Court has had to decide whether unmarried couples may adopt children together.

AIDS-phobic bills in Illinois House

Conservative state representatives in January introduced several AIDS-phobic bills. HB 0195 which requires anyone who knows he or she is infected with HIV or hepatitis to inform healthcare workers when receiving treatment. The healthcare workers must in turn notify other healthcare workers under their supervision, and add the information to the patient's medical record.

HB 0227 makes mandatory testing a condition of bail bond when, intentionally or unintentionally, an incident occurs in which a blood-borne virus could have been passed to a law enforcement officer, court worker or healthcare worker.

In the Senate, SB 138 would require those arrested for prostitution to be tested for HIV. The results would be placed in the person's file, and judges would be required to admonish them about HIV criminal transmission as part of legal proceedings. Testing would be paid for by county governments or by the defendant, if ordered by a judge.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago is opposing the three bills and organizing constituents to lobby against the bills.

Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie has introduced HB 408, which would legalize needle-exchange programs.

Reynolds accuser recants allegations

The woman who accused Rep. Mel Reynolds, D-Ill., of having sex with her when she was 16 has recanted the charges, but must still testify in the case against him. In June, Beverly Heard, 19, told the State's Attorney's office that Reynolds had sex with her when she was a minor. In August, Reynolds was charged with criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual abuse, child pornography and obstruction of justice. He denied the allegations, and called Heard "a Satan-worshiping lesbian."

In a Dec. 28 letter, Heard said that she and Reynolds had not had sex, although they had fantasized about it, and said that she felt forced into making the accusations by the State's Attorney's office. In an interview with the SUN-TIMES Jan. 13, Heard described her relationship with her partner, Karen Lawson. She said the media portrayed her as a "lesbian devil-worshipping monster" when the case first was made public in August. "I have a relationship with a woman," she said, "but I mean, cutting heads off and sucking blood?"

The State's Attorney's office has said it will go forward with the case.

Gays and lesbians are 8% of city bias cases

About 8.5 percent of all cases brought before the Chicago Human Relations Commission in the past five years were based on sexual orientation bias, according to figures released by the department. Of a total 2,148 cases of discrimination documented between May 1990 and Dec. 1994, 183 were based on sexual orientation. Gay-related bias makes up 11 percent of employment cases, 11.5 percent of public accommodation cases and 4 percent of housing complaints, according to Deputy Commissioner Miriam Pickus.

In 1994, 31 of 242 cases, or 12.8 percent of employment cases were gay-related; sexual orientation made up 34 of 295 public accommodation cases and 31 of 781 housing cases.

'Dancing Queens' sue for rights violations

The four Queer Nation members arrested in March, 1994 for dancing together in a suburban bar went to trial before the Cook County Human Rights Commission Jan. 18. The lawsuit, among the first under the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance, contends that the bar violated the anti-discrimination provisions of the law.

The men, Steve Kleinedler, Robert Castillo, Craig Teichen and John Pennycuff, were arrested at Sidelines Sports Bar in Harwood Heights March 11 on charges of disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and felony battery. They were acquitted; one was convicted of misdemeanor battery and sentenced to 30 days supervision. The four are represented by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and Cindy Hyndman of Robinson, Curley and Clayton. A decision is expected in February or March.

IN BRIEF

▼ The **Illinois Federation for Human Rights** new Republican lobbyist is **Dan Sprehe**, former chief legislative aide to Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra. Sprehe is now openly gay and will work on technical assistance and lobbying. IFHR also opened an office in Springfield.

▼ A man using the name **"Ruben"** is suspected in the murder of a gay man he met through a 900 phone-line service. The sister of **Scott Allen Shaver,** 29, said that on the day he was murdered she knew her brother was meeting a man he met through a phone service. The sister is concerned that police do not seem to be moving swiftly on this crime, which could be part of a trend of criminals meeting victims through the phone-sex lines. Scott's sister wants to warn anyone using the lines that they should be careful. Scott was found shot to death in his Logan Street apartment Dec. 23, and anyone with information should contact Detective Rutherford at Area 5 Police Headquarters (746-8282).

▼ A Chicago police captain, known as a longtime foe of gays, in January was found guilty of sexually harassing three female police officers under his command. **Capt. John Manley,** a watch commander in the Foster Avenue District, will be dismissed from the department unless the Police Board reverses its findings. In the 1960s, Manley, then a beat officer, patrolled the lakefront parks and public restrooms and made numerous arrests for public indecency, prompting gay activists to warn the community to avoid him.

▼ **Horizons Anti-Violence Project** reported the following gay-related incidents in December: one homicide, one sexual assault, one physical assault, two cases of domestic violence, one case of discrimination, one police misconduct, three cases of verbal harassment, three verbal threats and one incident of being chased or followed. Call 871-CARE, 24 hours a day, for assistance.

▼ Representatives from the **Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Chicago** and the **Illinois Federation for Human Rights** met Jan. 19 with **University of Illinois at Chicago Chancellor James Stukel** to demand that a university appointee who wrote anti-gay literature be removed from his office. **Michael Tristano,** for Illinois House Republican Chief of Staff, wrote anti-gay literature for campaigns for the Nov. 8 election, and was later appointed Vice Chancellor for Administration and Human Resources at UIC. GLAAD's Randy Snyder and the Federation's Rick Garcia are calling for the university, which has an office for gay and lesbian issues and sponsors gay-related student events, to "take the moral high ground" on the issue and remove Tristano from office. Tristano has been in the position for a month.

—Jane Lowers and Tracy Baim

Where is gay community center?

by Cathy Seabaugh

The Lesbian and Gay Community Center of Chicago still exists, though many in the community would never know it.

Efforts by a handful of volunteers sustain the heartbeat of the Center's existence. They work so diligently because they believe a city the size of Chicago needs a community center for the hundreds of thousands of lesbians and gay men who need a resource, a meeting place, a home base where everyone feels welcome.

"People have either forgotten about or have a really bad attitude about the Rodde Fund and the Center," said board member Kevin Bryson, a computer consultant who joined the Frank M. Rodde Fund board of directors last summer. "I feel the role of the board is that we need to make sure we're positioned so people can have the right attitude. Everybody (on the board) realizes we've got to get the house in order."

Two years ago, plans for the new community center at 2863 N. Clark were unveiled. Construction to update and finish out the building—approximately $200,000 for the rehabilitation—to meet the Center's needs began and a search for the $380,000 to buy the location grew more intense. The original deadline of July 1, 1993, for purchasing the building came and passed. The owner agreed to extend the lease while board members scavenged through resources, but eventually the board chose to let the lease lapse until they could see where fundraising road would take them.

"There are no significant donations coming in right now," Bryson said, adding that a long-range planning session for raising capital was scheduled for Jan. 21, immediately after a board meeting and election of new officers.

The Center's assets amount to $11,181 in checking and savings accounts. Although more than $100,000 was raised to put toward the purchase of the building on North Clark, most of those funds have been drained by rent, etc., which will be detailed in audits for 1992-93 and 1993-94. An accountant currently is working on the most recent audit, executive director Dale Muehler said, so the board will have that to present along with financial reports from previous years when writing grant proposals.

Meanwhile, the Center's phone line rings into Muehler's home. Board members are looking for office space, but their needs are fairly specific and funds limited.

"It's got to be the right combination of space at the right price," Bryson said, emphasizing the importance of a formal office. "We all feel you're not a center unless you are a center. I think we also realize we're not going to find a place as soon as we'd hoped to."

Muehler and Michael Harrington, longtime president of the Rodde Fund, have attempted to meet with the the son, a Chicago police officer, of the man who owns the building on North Clark to resume some level of negotiation. Ald. Bernie Hansen is the real estate agent for the building and newly elected Community Center co-chairs (from the Jan. 21 meeting) again will be working with him. Current board members are Bryson, Ken Allen, Ben Bailey, Tony Dornacher, Don Dunfee, Harrington, Muehler, Nora Solitano, Mary Trew and Alicia Vega.

For more information on the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of Chicago, call (312) 334-2175.

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ELECTION '95

Citywide candidates campaign for gay vote

by Jane Lowers

A month before the city's Feb. 28 primary election, many gays and lesbians are still divided about city and aldermanic races that offer a wide slate of gay-friendly candidates.

With the exception of the mayoral contest, which has caused friction primarily along racial lines, gay and lesbian political watchers have for the most part declined to actively back one candidate over another in the citywide races. Several candidates have gay campaign managers, and most have a track record of being supportive of gay issues, either in voting or in policy.

OUTLINES does not endorse candidates for office, but normally prints the endorsements of gay, progressive and women's rights organizations in its election guide. However, most groups had not completed their endorsement process by the time this issue went to press. The following election guide does include the responses of candidates who answered questionnaires from OUTLINES and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Further updates will be printed in upcoming issues of NIGHTLINES WEEKLY.

Daley leads mayoral race

Three candidates are vying for the Democratic party mayoral primary: incumbent Mayor Richard M. Daley, Water Reclamation District Commissioner Joe Gardner, and Sheila Jones, a backer of political extremist Lyndon LaRouche.

Daley holds a wide margin in the polls over Gardner, who was the only Black leader to decide to run from a slate of potential candidates that included U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush and former Illinois Attorney Gen. Roland Burris. In January, Burris announced his candidacy as an independent for the April 4 general election—a move he said he would make if Gardner lost the primary.

At a January press conference, Daley received the support of about 50 gays and lesbians —mostly white. The group, co-chaired by Susan Herr and Michael Bauer, was widely criticized by Black and Latino gay groups for purporting to represent all of the gay community.

"Everyone up there with Daley [at the press conference] was white, and most were male and over 40," said Michael O'Connor of Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays. "Those individuals who don't come to our neighborhoods and our institutions, and don't ask for our support, won't get it.

Joe Gardner.

They might represent the Lakefront, but definitely not the South and West Sides, and definitely not us."

The conflict, according to Lisa Pickens of the African American Womyn's Alliance, is not so much over who to support, but that no Black leaders were contacted.

"As far as I know, none of the people of color organizations were contacted to see if we wanted to be included," she said. "The way the conference was reported, it looked like it was an endorsement from the entire community, not from a particular set of leaders."

At least one member of the Mayor's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (ACGLI) was among those at the press conference, and several Black leaders have called on the board to change its rules to prohibit members from making political endorsements.

Gays and Lesbians to Re-Elect Daley co-chair Bauer insists that the lack of diversity in the group was unintentional.

"This was an ad-hoc group, with everyone inviting their friends, and we had no idea who would show up," he said. "The key thing for us to do is to better communicate Daley's record and reach out to the people of color and demonstrate that he's the best candidate."

Daley's active support of the community goes back to his term as Cook County State's Attorney, beginning in 1983, when he directed the office to respond to anti-gay hate crimes and sought funding to establish the Horizons Anti-Violence Project. Although the city's Human Rights Ordinance passed before he took office, he was credited with influencing positive votes from at least two aldermen. As mayor, he supported the city's hate-crime ordinance and state hate-crime legislation, including making hate crimes a Class 3 felony, and supported the city's bereavement leave ordinance for city employees with domestic partners. Daley created the city's Office of AIDS Policies and Programs and sought money for city AIDS programs, and issued an executive order banning discrimination based on HIV/AIDS. In late 1994, he re-issued the ban after two candidates for police academy said they were tested for HIV during the application process and were denied admission based on their seropositive status.

Daley's willingness to support pro-gay legislation in Springfield and gay issues nationwide, including the boycott of Colorado in 1992, has led even some traditional gay critics to support him for the primary.

"Daley has always articulated concern for the gay and lesbian community, even when he hasn't been a leader," said Rick Garcia, director of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights. "He sometimes came on board after the fact, but he's provided us with some valuable lobbying. We have some very serious issues facing the community, especially concerning AIDS and the health department, and with more pushing, the mayor is better poised to respond than Joe Gardner."

Garcia has been a longtime Gardner supporter, but backed away from him for this election. However, Gardner has appealed to other gay leaders, including Marc Loveless, a candidate for 32nd Ward alderman and co-chair of Gardner's campaign committee.

"Joe Gardner's record is one of distinction, and one the gay and lesbian community can be proud of," he said. "He's had gays and lesbians at every level of his work. By contrast, I'm appalled and outraged at how Mayor Daley has neglected African-American gays and lesbians, with nothing more than lip service.

"We have problems particularly with police on the South Side, and he's done nothing more than apologize. I don't want to hear another 'sorry' from that man."

For his own part, Gardner says he has tried to bridge the gap between the gay and Black communities.

"I've tried to establish and maintain a dialogue between the African-American communities, and to a great extent, illuminate the Black community, which has been less than visionary on gay issues," he said.

Gardner supported the Water Reclamation District's non-discrimination policy, and said he would push for citywide domestic partnership benefits and a registry if elected. He also supports expanded AIDS education, particularly in poor communities, and condom distribution in schools.

"When you weigh the health hazards of HIV against the moral concerns of some people, I think distribution of condoms is a positive way to slow the spread of AIDS," he said.

Gardner is scheduled to release his platform, including his stand on gay-rights issues, in early February. His agenda includes the formation of an inspector general's office independent of the police department to investigate complaints of police misconduct, and a gay and lesbian advisory commission for the police department. In addition, he said he would support gay and lesbian appointments to the school and police board.

Gardner said he would also actively recruit a gay man or lesbian as one of several deputy mayors in his administration.

"It's important for the mayor to set the tone for the city, and to acknowledge and accept the variations in lifestyle that occur," he said. "The role of the mayor is to educate the community and deal with its biases. I'm willing to bite the bullet."

Gardner said he had proposed adding domestic-partnership benefits at the Water Reclamation District, but no action has been taken on the proposal. He believes his support of gay issues will win him gay votes, despite some white gays' support of Daley.

"I was never given the opportunity to set forth my agenda to the individuals who endorsed Daley," he said. "But I think in the next 30 days, I'll receive the support of both the Black and white gay and lesbian communities."

Daley, who was the first mayor to march in Pride parades (but stopped in 1991 after declaring that Sundays were to be spent only with his family), expressed his willingness to continue to support gay rights at the state and federal levels, but made no commitments to push for domestic-partnership benefits for the city.

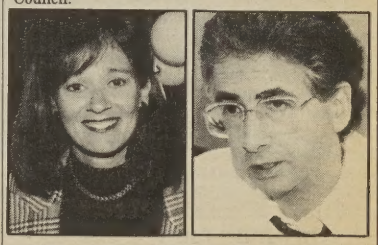
"I'll stand up for gays and lesbians in Chicago, Springfield, and D.C., and I'll step forward against any discrimination," he said. "I hope we can pass a [state] civil-rights bill, because no one should be experiencing discrimination in this day and age."

When asked about domestic-partnership registry for the city, Daley said he had "an open mind on it," but declined to say whether he would push for it if re-elected. Regarding expanded benefits for the domestic partners of city employees, he said his administration had been "working on smaller measures, which is not to say 'yes' or 'no,' but to have an open mind."

No Republican mayoral candidate has made any significant outreach for the gay vote.

Treasurer's Race: Santos, Bloom both pro-gay

In the race for city treasurer, gays and lesbians may feel compelled to choose between the greater of two goods. Rated "has potential" by IMPACT in her 1991 bid for the office, Treasurer Miriam Santos has since been a visible supporter of gay rights, and hiring a number of open gays and lesbians to her staff, including former IMPACT director Laurie Dittman, who now serves as deputy treasurer. She faces off against veteran 5th Ward Ald. Lawrence Bloom, who has been a consistent supporter of gay rights in his tenure in the City Council.



Miriam Santos (photo by Tracy Baim) and Lawrence Bloom (photo by Lisa Ebright).

Another candidatet, Douglas Heitz, is a LaRouche supporter. The fourth candidate, Tracy Powell, has not sought gay support.

Santos was appointed in 1989, and elected in 1991 over three other candidates. Formerly a Daley supporter, she split with him in 1992 after a fight over city pension funds. Under her, the treasurer's office adopted the city's human-rights ordinance to city depositories.

"Our depositories are required to tell us about their non-discrimination policies, and agree not to discriminate on any basis, which is something that no one had addressed before," she said. "In the past, that had no teeth, but under Laurie Dittman, we've been able to see that the pledge is followed. A depositor that violates the ordinance could lose its status if it was found to be discriminatory."

Santos also boasts a staff that is 18 percent gay and lesbian—the treasurer's office has a staff of about 25, meaning that there are four or five gays on staff. In addition, Santos said she requested that one of the police officers assigned to guard the office be gay or lesbian.

Santos said her experience as a minority and a woman has led her to a commitment to gay issues. "I've been committed to gay and AIDS issues from the beginning, even when it wasn't popular, because it was the right thing to do," she said. "If you single out any minority, or condone any "-ism," you're next in line for discrimination."

Neither Bloom nor Santos was endorsed by the Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization, although Santos initially claimed their endorsement, a misunderstanding she says has since been cleared up. Her campaign manager is open lesbian Lisa Cohen, a former staff member of past attorney general Burris, and now a political consultant. Santos has also been mentioned as a potential candidate for Sen. Paul Simon's seat in 1996, but insists that her commitment is to the treasurer's office.

"It's flattering to have my name put up for such a high-level job, but I'm dedicated to the people who view me as leadership for this post. My opponent may have the right votes for the gay community, but my actions speak louder than his words."

Bloom, who is white and has represented the predominantly Black 5th Ward, has been an early

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and consistent voice of support for gay rights in the council. He voted in favor of the city human-rights ordinance each time it was proposed, including its failed appearances in 1986 and September, 1988. He has appointed a gay man, David Goldstein, outgoing board chair of Open Hand, as his campaign manager.

"In the last 16 years, I've been at the forefront of gay rights in the City Council, and it hasn't been without personal risk," he said. "I did it before it was politically popular."

Although candidates have a limited ability to change the domestic-partnership benefits of city employees because many employees have negotiated contracts, Bloom said he would take action in other areas, expanding on the work that Santos has done.

"As much as it is possible, I'd be willing to look into the companies that the city invests in, and see whether they have non-discriminatory policies," he said. "We select an investment advisory board that matches the objectives of each client [including the school board, pension plans and other investment programs within the city government], and they tend to invest in broad-based securities, but we could try to see that they were non-discriminatory."

Bloom's early support for gay rights has made him the target of criticism by some 5th Ward constituents.

"In the past, I've been condemned to not be re-elected, to purgatory even, for supporting gay rights. But I proved myself under fire, and I'm not just after the vote. I don't have a feud with the mayor, and I want to be treasurer, not some higher office."

Both Santos and Bloom are supportive of progressive AIDS policies, including needle exchange and condom distribution in schools.

Gay man among varied candidates for City Clerk

Of all the citywide races, the contest for City Clerk has drawn the most varied slate of candidates, in terms of gay and AIDS issues. The top candidates are State Sen. Rickey Hendon, a former 27th Ward alderman with a pro-gay voting record in Springfield; and 23rd Ward Ald. James Laski, who admits that his own voting record on gay rights is "abysmal," but claims to have undergone a change of heart and education. Candidate Anthony Harper is a La Rouche supporter.

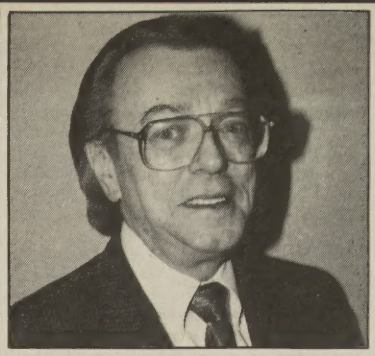
A fourth candidate is Polish media executive T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, who has actively pursued support from the gay community in the past year and a half. It is commonly known in gay political circles that Herbert is gay, but he has not run as an openly gay candidate.

"I've never carried a sign or yelled it from the rooftops, but I've never hidden it either," he said in an interview with OUTLINES. "For this race, it seemed to me that an openly gay candidate couldn't win."

Herbert is the publisher and editor of POLONIA TODAY, the nation's largest Polish newspaper, and produces Polish television and radio programming. He says he would be an active advocate for gay rights in the office.

"I had planned initially to establish a domestic-partnership registry with the clerk's office as soon as elected, but it appears that that isn't politically feasible," he said. "I will ban discrimination against sexual orientation in all office activities. I'll be an advocate for the gay community."

All of the candidates for clerk have proposed modernizing the office, including putting City Council records on modem-accessible computer service. Hendon has also expressed his support of domestic-partnership registry.



Gay City Clerk candidate T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert. Photo by Jane Lowers

Hendon was elected to a two-year Senate term in 1992, and was re-elected in 1994 for four years. If elected clerk, he said he would finish the senate term, but not seek re-election to the Senate in 1998. Before taking a senate seat, he represented the 27th Ward, now held by Ald. Dexter Watson.

"I'm inclusive and have an open mind. I vote what I believe and my word is as good as gold," he said. "As the City Clerk, I would have the ability to introduce legislation for community members. The clerk should be the conduit for the public to introduce legislation it believes is important, and I'm ready to lead in that role."

Hendon also said he would at least attempt to implement domestic-partnership registry without prior approval from the City Council. "I don't think the council or mayor would call me on it," he said.

Hendon's progressive and pro-gay voting record have made him the most likely favorite with gay political watchers, but some have expressed cautious support for Ald. Laski, who has begun courting the gay vote.

Representing the conservative "bungalow belt" of the Southwest Side's 23rd Ward, Laski has opposed virtually every piece of pro-gay legislation in the City Council in the past five years, from bereavement leave for city workers with domestic partners to a resolution that the city would not do business with Colorado during the boycott over Amendment 2.

In February 1994, he proposed, but did not introduce, a measure to require HIV testing for all public employees, healthcare workers and those employed in areas of public accommodation, from food workers to hospital janitors and lifeguards. After outrage from AIDS and civil-rights advocates, Laski dropped the proposed ordinance, and in a late 1994 SUN-TIMES column, he said it was

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Aldermanic hopefuls face off

Only openly gay candidate forced off the ballot

by Jane Lowers

A few weeks before the Feb. 28 city primary, races for City Council have captured little attention in the gay and lesbian community. With the exception of Ald. Helen Shiller (46th), most lakefront incumbents are unchallenged or likely to win. The only openly gay aldermanic candidate —activist Marc Loveless—has been forced off the ballot and will now run as a write-in candidate against 32nd Ward Ald. Terry Gabinski.

Two of the strongest pro-gay aldermen, Bernie Hansen, 44th, and Mary Ann Smith, 48th, are running unopposed. One man, Bruce Modell, had intended to run against Hansen, but accidentally filed against Shiller in the 48th. He was subsequently challenged and removed from the ballot.

Gay aldermanic candidate Marc Loveless. Photo by Tracy Baim

Shiller faces challenge

Shiller, who represents Uptown and parts of surrounding neighborhoods, led a successful push for additional city AIDS funding in 1992 against opposition from Mayor Daley and apathy among some other council members. A dedicated liberal who has endorsed Joe Gardner for mayor, Shiller has a consistent pro-gay voting record in the City Council and has worked on pro-gay issues for 25 years. She faces off against Bob Kuzas, a former policeman and Democratic state committeeman. Kuzas has taken a pro-gay stance, and has appointed a local activist, Roxanna Daniel, as his liaison to the gay and lesbian community.

Both candidates are basing their campaigns around the housing, crime and health issues of Uptown, which has a high population of people with HIV as well as a large gay community.

"I've forced the AIDS budget issue every year, and got the last two city budgets to hold on to AIDS funding, but it's only been with some severe criticism," Shiller said.

Shiller is an active proponent of domestic-partnership registry and benefits for the partners of city employees, but admits it will be a fight to get either through the City Council.

"Domestic partnership is the right thing to do, but the key is going to be convincing the council about the financial aspects of adding pension and medical benefits," she said. "I'm surprised domestic-partnership registry wasn't included along with bereavement leave in 1993, but it should be easier to pass: There's no money required from the city."

Shiller has also come down hard on the mayor's policing programs and policy, including police accountability.

"I've called for police accountability, particularly in dealing with domestic violence and hate crime," she said. "When we get complaints, it's usually about the way things were handled by the police department."

But Kuzas believes Shiller has alienated her community by "feuding" with police.

"I think she's very committed on the things that she's done, but she hasn't gone further than her own community," he said. "The Human Rights Ordinance only applies to the executive branch of the city. Aldermen, for example, are still exempt from it. That's something I'd work to change right away."

Kuzas has offered to lobby for gay rights at a state level, and said he would work to expand the city's domestic-partnership benefits beyond bereavement leave.

"Gays and lesbians are part of this ward, and as alderman, I'll be involved with every part of the community," he said. "At the 1993 state Democratic convention, I was the only one to speak up for putting non-discrimination based on sexual orientation on the party platform.

"I want to create a momentum on gay issues

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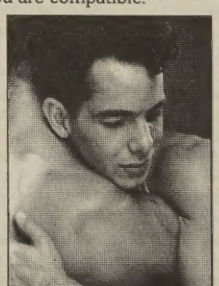

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ELECTION '95

CITY COUNCIL from 19

from the get-go," he said. "Even if we can't get full domestic-partnership benefits right away, we can chip away at the problem until we eventually secure them."

Loveless to run as write-in

One of the state's only openly gay elected officials (to a Local School Board), Marc Loveless declared in September that he would run against incumbent 32nd Ward Ald. Terry Gabinski, who represents parts of Wicker Park and Bucktown. In January, Gabinski's campaign staff challenged the petitions of Loveless and the two other opponents. One candidate, Shawn Lipe, dropped out of the race, and the city board of election commissioners ruled 2-1 on Jan. 17 that Loveless had improperly filed his statement of economic interest and was ineligible for the ballot.

Loveless filed a statement of economic interest with the Cook County Clerk's office in early 1994, following his election to a Local School Board. He did not file a copy with the city elections department at the time he filed his petition to run, and it was on that basis that his candidacy was challenged and rejected. Loveless has filed an appeal to the Cook County Circuit Court, contending that because his statement was already on file with Cook County, it was always available for public inspection.

Loveless will also run in the primary as a write-in candidate, hoping to secure enough write-in nominations to win a place on a run-off ballot against Gabinski in the general election April 4. A minimum of 256 voters must write in his name to put him on the general ballot.

"We have more than 500 names on our mailing list, in addition to the people who signed my petitions to run," he said. "I'm hoping that will be enough to put me on the general ballot."

Gabinski declined to discuss his position on gay issues with OUTLINES, but he has generally had an anti-gay voting record. He voted against the Human Rights Ordinance in 1986 and in September, 1988, and was absent during the December, 1988 vote in which it passed the council. He did vote for the city bereavement leave measure in December, 1993.

Other wards

In the redrawn **42nd "superward,"** which includes the Gold Coast and North Michigan Avenue, incumbent Ald. Burton Natarus emerged as the strongest candidate after former Mayor Jane Byrne decided not to run.

Natarus has a pro-gay voting record, and is running against two opponents who have sought gay support. Dennis O'Neill, a salesman for a medical manufacturer, said he was educated about gay rights by a gay brother. A "social moderate," he supports domestic-partnership registry and benefits, but with "provisions" to prove that the couples are serious about the relationship. He does not support making condoms available in schools, calling it a "band-aid" solution to the spread of HIV. The second challenger, Kevin Flood, a properties manager, shares similar views about domestic partnership, and said that he does not favor needle-exchange programs.

Ald. Ted Mazola did not run for re-election in the **1st Ward,** where C. Victoria Almeida, a Democratic Committeewoman, is a top contender. Both she and Francisco Du'Prey said they were supportive of gay issues including domestic partnership and adoption in OUTLINES surveys; Almeida and Roberto Caldero also responded to AIDS Foundation of Chicago surveys and were supportive of progressive AIDS policies, though both were undecided about whether to support housing for people with AIDS in the ward.

2nd Ward Ald. Madeline Haithcock replaced U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush in 1992, and voted in favor of the city's bereavement leave act. She tops a slate of 10 candidates, including Mary Collins and Martha Palmer, both of whom agreed entirely with progressive AIDS policy in the AFC questionnaire.

3rd Ward Ald. Dorothy Tillman, who voted for the Human Rights Ordinance (HRO) and bereavement leave, faces nine opponents, including ex-convicts Tyrone Kenner and Wallace "Gator" Bradley, who has ties to imprisoned gang kingpin Larry Hoover. Candidates Alfreda Green and Francine Washington responded to the AFC questionnaire; Green was undecided about condoms in schools and Washington did not respond to questions about the mayor's executive order banning HIV testing of police candidates.

4th Ward Ald. Toni Preckwinkle has been a board member of the Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization, voted for the bereavement leave act and has supported gay rights. She faces three opponents, including Maurice Perkins, who is generally supportive of AFC AIDS policy, but does not support needle exchange or condom availability in prisons.

Five candidates are seeking to replace pro-gay **5th Ward** Ald. Lawrence Bloom, who is running for city clerk. Only Janet Oliver-Hill responded to the AFC survey. She does not support comprehensive sex education in schools and did not answer questions about AIDS housing in the ward.

6th Ward Ald. John Steele voted in favor of the bereavement leave act and supports progressive AIDS policy except for condom availability in high schools. He faces two opponents.

8th Ward Ald. Lorraine Dixon voted in favor of the bereavement leave act and has sought gay support in this election. She has two challengers, including James Daniels, who was generally positive on the AFC questionnaire, but was undecided on condoms in schools and needle exchange. Both he and Dixon were undecided on AIDS housing in the ward.

Formerly strongly anti-gay **9th Ward** Ald. Robert Shaw voted against the HRO each time it came before the City Council, but voted in favor of the bereavement leave act in 1993. He has seven challengers. The **10th Ward** has a field of 13 candidates including incumbent Ald. John Buchanan, who voted against bereavement leave, and former state Rep. Clem Balanoff, who has been mildly pro-gay. **11th Ward** Ald. Patrick Huels has voted for the HRO and bereavement, and faces one opponent.

The **12th Ward,** currently represented by outgoing Mark Fary, is up for grabs among 12 candidates. Only Leticia Delgadillo responded to OUTLINES surveys. She said she would not vote for gay-rights legislation and does not support gay adoption or believe gay issues should be taught in school. However, she supports sexual orientation as part of hate-crime laws and gay rights at a state level.

13th Ward Ald. John Madrzyk, who voted for the HRO, is leaving that post. Two candidates, Emilio Cundari and Frank Olivo, have filed.

Pro-gay Ald. Edward Burke is unopposed in the **14th Ward. 15th Ward** Ald. Virgil Jones and **16th Ward** Ald. Shirley Coleman both voted for the bereavement leave act. Jones faces seven challengers; Coleman six.

In the **17th Ward,** Ald. Allan Streeter consistently voted against the HRO. Two of his opponents, Charles Kelly and Daniel Robinson, have sought gay support. Kelly is undecided on whether to support a domestic-partnership registry, but supports gay rights including adoption. Robinson also supports domestic-partnership registry, and is possibly supportive of needle exchange programs. No candidates for the **18th Ward** have sought gay support. ALd. Thomas Murphy voted against bereavement leave.

19th Ward Ald. Virginia Rugai is unchallenged. **20th Ward** Ald. Arenda Troutman voted in favor of the bereavement leave act but does not support the right of gays to marry. She faces nine opponents.

In the **21st Ward,** Ald. Jesse Evans voted against the HRO in early debates and was absent during the final vote in 1988. He voted in favor of bereavement leave. He faces seven opponents.

22nd Ward Ald. Ricardo Munoz voted in favor of bereavement leave, and has sought gay support in his race against four challengers. Ald. James Laski is seeking the city clerk's position rather than run for re-election in the **23rd Ward.** The strongly conservative ward has six candidates, none of whom have sought gay support.

24th Ward Ald. Jesse Miller and **25th Ward** Ald. Ambrosio Medrano have no voting records on gay issues. Miller faces a slate of 10 challengers, including Joee Ann Bradley, who interviewed with IMPACT; Medrano has three opponents. **26th Ward** Ald. Billy Ocasio replaced U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, and voted in favor of bereavement leave. One opponent, James Cortez, interviewed with IMPACT. Benjamin Rosado is backed by the Christian Coalition.

27th Ward Ald. Dexter Watson voted in favor of bereavement leave. He and Walter Burnett have sought gay support in a field of six candidates. In an OUTLINES survey, Burnett said he was entirely supportive of gay rights, including adoption, marriage and domestic-partner benefits. James Jones said he supports gay rights and partnership benefits, but not the rights of gays to marry or gays as part of school curriculum.

28th Ward Ald. Ed Smith voted against the HRO and did not vote on bereavement leave.

Ald. Sam Burrell, **29th,** voted for bereavement leave and faces a total slate of eight challengers. Oddis Johnson supports gay rights and domestic partnership, but not the right of gays to adopt or gays in school curriculum.

Aldermen Carole Bialczak and Michael Wojcik (formerly 35th) are fighting for the redistricted **30th Ward.** Bialczak voted against bereavement leave, Wojcik for it. Three others have entered the race, including H.M. Wojcik.

31st Ward Ald. Ray Suarez did not vote for bereavement leave. His opponents' views on gay issues are unknown. **33rd Ward** Ald. Richard Mell voted once for the HRO, and in favor of bereavement leave. He has one opponent. In the **34th Ward,** Ald. Carrie Austin faces a slate of 13 opponents. She voted against bereavement leave.

The **35th Ward** was left vacant when Michael Wojcik was redistricted to the 30th. Candidates Marja Stoll, Vilma Colom and Iris Martinez have sought gay support.

36th Ward Ald. William Banks voted against the HRO and bereavement leave. He has one opponent. In the **37th Ward,** Percy Giles voted for both the HRO and bereavement leave. He has three opponents. **38th Ward** Ald. Thomas Allen voted against bereavement leave. He has four challengers. **39th Ward** Ald. Margaret Laurino replaced her father, Anthony Laurino, who voted against gay rights bills. She has six challengers.

Patrick O'Connor **(40th)** voted for the HRO twice after opposing it in 1986. He voted for bereavement leave. **41st Ward** Ald. Brian Doherty is the council's only Republican member, and voted against bereavement leave.

43rd Ward Ald. Charles Bernardini voted for bereavement leave and is consistently pro-gay. One of his opponents, Jay Case, has sought gay support.

Ald. Patrick Levar, **45th,** has voted against gay-rights bills. Pro-gay **47th Ward** Ald. Eugene Schulter has consistently voted for gay-rights issues and has one opponent, Michael Buster.

Pro-gay Ald. Joe Moore, **49th,** who represents Rogers Park, voted for bereavement leave.

50th Ward Ald. Bernard Stone eventually voted "yes" on the human rights ordinance and bereavement leave.

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the one piece of his political past that he regretted.

"The mandatory testing proposal was misguided and a waste of public money," he told OUTLINES. "But I do support comprehensive healthcare, including sex education and city funding for HIV prevention programs."

In his race for clerk, Laski is now seeking support from the gay community. He met with representatives from the Illinois Federation for Human Rights and has hired a gay student from Loyola University to look at gay-related policy issues. However, he still has reservations about some AIDS issues and domestic partnership.

"I'm looking for some sense in the issue, like requiring applicants to show that they've lived together for six months or have financial responsibility for each other," he said. "I'm concerned about abuses. I'm willing to look into other cities' plans for domestic-partner health benefits, as long as it doesn't unduly burden the city budget. Everyone has a right to healthcare."

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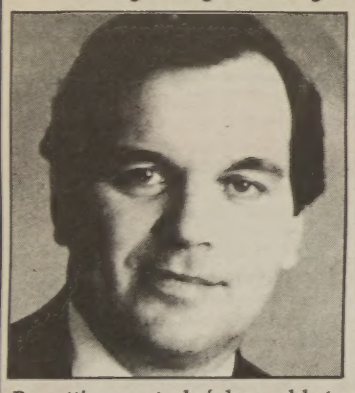

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Voices

A Special Outlines Black History Month Section ▼ February, 1995

Commitment to Community

by Dan Robinson

This month, African-Americans will celebrate the triumphs and remember the tragedies that have played a key roles in the shaping of America. But Black History isn't focused solely on the past and the road already tread. For Black gays and lesbians, the '90s is a time to create new realities for future history.

Black gays and lesbians in Chicago are no exception, and this is a particularly crucial and exciting time. "I think '94 was a wake-up call," said Lisa Pickens, co-founder of the African American Women's Alliance, a support group for Black lesbians on the South Side. "Not only for the larger Black community, but for white gays and lesbians that they aren't the only forces to be reckoned with."

"Community" is the buzzword for gays and lesbians of color striving for more than the often bleak picture that has long characterized African-American gays and lesbians in Chicago.

For Black gays and lesbians in Chicago, the situation could be summed up like this: "they" have few resources; are divided along the "side" lines of the city: South, West, and North; and are not politically motivated or aware. While there have been gays and lesbians who have attacked these problems from a Black gay or black lesbian standpoint, only in the past few years have Black gays and lesbians realized the need to know each other and to work together.

"From all indications, Chicago is in step or in some instances ahead of what other Black gays and lesbians are doing in other cities," Pickens said. While Pickens noted there "was work to do" in the political arena, the continued involvement in the South Side's Bud Billiken Parade gave Black gays and lesbians an important edge. "In terms of creating visibility, we've overcome a major obstacle. And we got cheers from the crowd."

What is "community" for African-American gays and lesbians in Chicago? "I'm not sure that we are there yet," said Renae Ogletree, co-chair for Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays (CBLG), an open organization that meets to discuss issues among African-American gays, lesbians and transgendered peoples. "What we have done is at least synthesized and identified those issues of concern."

Those issues are on at least three fronts: involvement within the larger African-American communities in Chicago; interaction with the white gay and lesbian network of businesses, press, and service organizations; and the need to build key resources and business relationships among gays and lesbians of color.

Ogletree doesn't expect these challenges will be surmounted overnight. "Community is a process, and it takes time," she said. "I don't think [Black gays and lesbians] should be criticized for taking any less time than it takes others to build up community."

There are many organizations throughout the city that provide support and activities for African-American gays and lesbians. Among some of the better known are Group Dialogue, Image Plus, Literary Exchange, the Spell Group, African American Women's Alliance, Greater Chicago Committee, Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays, and Yahimba.

The most successful process has been the networking between different groups. "We need to talk to each other and learn how to connect," Ogletree said.

Two significant inroads to meet this end were two conferences held in the fall of last year. The first, sponsored by Yahimba, focused on issues affecting lesbian women of color

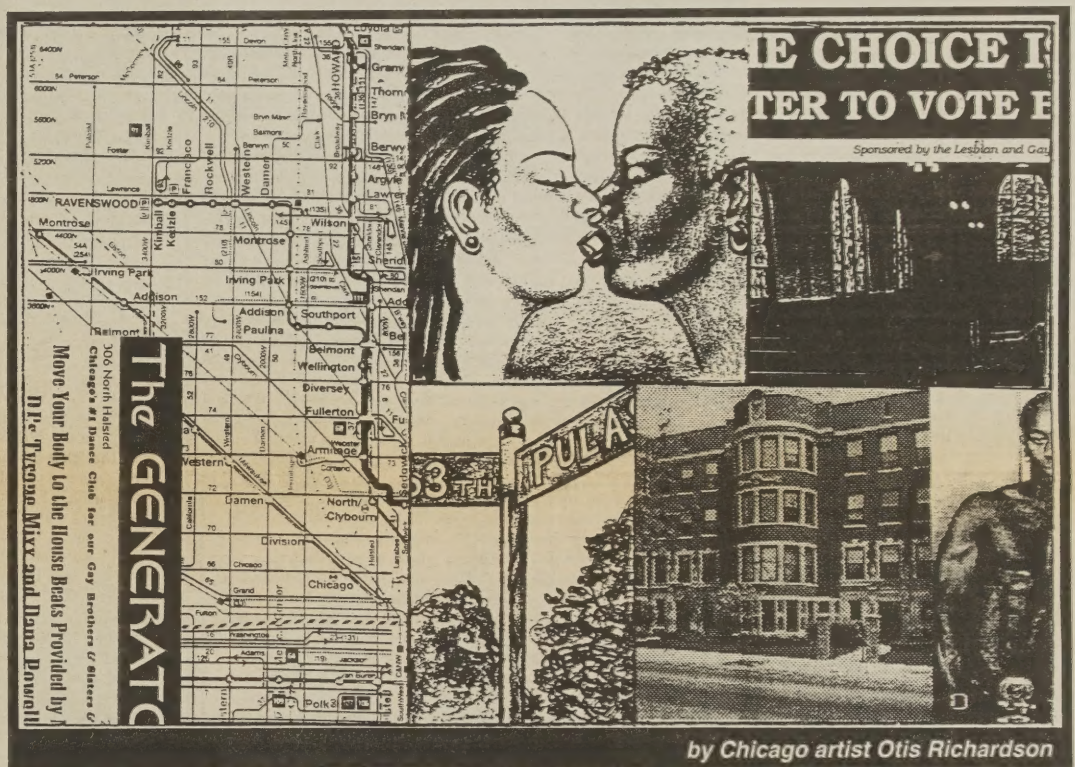
"To my knowledge, it was the one of the largest conferences for Black lesbians in the Midwest, and I feel really positive about that," Pickens said. She added the involvement of the newly organized South Side chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) was an indication of the support that's really out there in the Black community."

The other, sponsored by CBLG, targeted key problem areas—homophobia in the Black community, financial issues, lack of political interest and impact—which keep Black gays and lesbians, as a group, on the margin. The hope of these conferences is that solutions can be implemented, but there is the realization that it will take many more Black gays and lesbians working together than there are at present.

"I feel as though we're missing a generation," Ogletree said. While she noted that many younger Black gay men and women were more concerned about social activities than political activism, others, mainly middle-aged and older, were burned out. "Some of us are into our careers, or have done the activist stint and are tired," she said. "There are only so many organizations you can join, only so many meetings you can attend."

Pickens, however, views this time as the beginning of a transition to a new group of leaders. "I think we're seeing new blood at work, and some of the people who have been at the lead feel more comfortable in stepping down."

CBLG and other groups strive toward a strong Black gay and lesbian network of interest and shared resources. But this is only one direction Black gays and lesbians in this city are taking. "I think we're realizing that we can't accomplish this on our own," Pickens said. "We need to pull family and friends into it."



by Chicago artist Otis Richardson

Bars creating community

Perhaps, on a more individual, but no less conscious, basis, other Black gays and lesbians seek to preserve a unique social mix of gay and straight within the predominantly African-American communities of the city's South and West sides. An "almost historical" example in Chicago is Jeffery Pub.

Unlike the larger and more popular Black gay spots like Trade and Flavor or The Generator, whose central locations attract Black gays and more than a few lesbians to them, Jeffery Pub is small bar in the city's revitalized South Shore neighborhood. The Pub has a dual base: mixed, though largely heterosexual clientele during the day, and, at night, the crowd changes to groups of homosexual

Turn to page 32

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Special Pull-Out Edition

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WELCOME

Welcome to the annual Black History Month edition of Outlines newspaper. This is a special pull-out section, with 12 pages of news, art, views, politics, poetry, and events (pages 21-32). The center-spread, pages 26-27, is a very special collector's calendar of Black gay and lesbian leaders past & present. We couldn't possibly fit everyone, but there are plenty!

▼▼▼▼

This issue also kicks off a special regular section in Outlines, VOICES. Each month, the Voices section will include African-American gay and lesbian news, views, art and features. The size of the section will vary, from one page to several, and we welcome (& encourage) contributions.

1st Bayard Rustin Awards Feb. 25

by Cathy Seabaugh

Bayard Rustin's role in the civil-rights movement and involvement with the organizing of the 1963 March on Washington make him one of the most powerful African-American gay men in history. That's why the Greater Chicago Committee (GCC), formed last year, has named its annual awards after this historic figure. The first annual Bayard Rustin Awards for and by the African-American lesbian and gay community will be Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Midland Hotel, 172 W. Adams, as part of a weekend of activities celebrating the Committee's first-year anniversary.

"Bayard was my inspiration, as well as for lots of others," said GCC co-founder Derrick Hicks, who is doing a lot of the backstage work for the organization and the upcoming awards ceremony. "It was understood between Bayard and Martin Luther King, Jr., that Bayard stay in the background because King told Bayard, 'people will use anything they can against us.' "

Rustin's homosexuality was common knowledge among King's inner circle, according to Chicago historian Marie Kuda. When J. Edgar Hoover and his FBI staff could not stack up enough negative information through wire taps on King, the anti-homosexual Hoover spread information about Rustin's orientation in an attempt to damage King's effectiveness. Although King was pressured to drop Rustin from his leadership group, King refused.

The GCC awards "will be the first time the African-American community in Chicago has the opportunity to say, 'This is the best of the best,' " Hicks said.

The finalists for the awards, based on voting done at a few Black gay clubs last month, include nightspots-of-the-year selections **Ritz Manhattan, Trade & Flavor** and **Generator**—patrons of those clubs will be given ballots between Feb. 6-11 to vote for the winners in various categories. Other finalists include: D.J. of the Year finalists: **Tyrone Mixx** (Generator), **Vic Connor** (Trade & Flavor), **"Billy" Mitchell** (Ritz). Bartender: **Pickles** (Generator), **David White** (Ritz), **Carliss Keith** (Ritz). Female of Year: **Ms. Cooper, Pickles, Cynthia Bell.** Male: **Willie English, Edward Jackson, David Wright.** Social Organization: **Chieftans, M.A.P., Onyx Images.** Community Service: **Kupona Network, Horizons Community Services, Minority Outreach Intervention Project.** Activist: **Michael O'Connor, Marcus Mooney, Shelton Watson.**

The awards will be announced at a dinner Feb. 25 at the Midland Hotel. Call 929-5887.

Black Leadership conference now a 'summit' on rt. wing

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is changing their annual conference to now be a political summit, in response to the current national agenda impacting Black gays, lesbians and their families. "Our Families, Our Communities, Our Lives" will be held Feb. 17-19 in Los Angeles (call 213-964-7820).

This Summit, the largest gathering of its kind, will draw national and international participants from as far away as South Africa.

Project for West Side youth opens

by Cathy Seabaugh

Stephanie Bell knows the needs of the West Side. Since 1990, the executive director of Harriet Tubman Place's emergency food pantry has seen the hungry faces of the homeless, drug addicts and prostitutes. She has witnessed the isolation that plagues far too many people and the desperation that leads them astray.

Now she's getting a chance to effect the future of the youth who are growing up in Austin, East and West Garfield, and North Lawndale. Beginning Feb. 4, the Harriet Tubman Place Sexual Minority HIV Awareness Program will offer a drop-in center for young people, their families and friends, a safe place where youth 13-18 and young adults 18-25 can deal with their identities without having to deal with negative reactions or judgements.

Stephanie Bell.
Photo: Cathy Seabaugh

Harriet Tubman Place, 5901 W. Fulton, which is run by the Third Unitarian Church, received a $50,000 grant from the Chicago Department of Public Health in response to a grant proposal prepared by Bell and Curt Hicks, co-facilitator of Oak Park's Prism Youth Network, a support group for sexual minority youth. The money is earmarked for HIV/AIDS prevention education for youth.

Eight people attended the first volunteer training workshop, Jan. 14, ranging in age from 30 to 50. All but two were African Americans, which comprise the largest population in the area being targeted.

"We had a social worker, a Ph.D. counselor, a Catholic brother and teacher, a woman who has a gay son, and some of us are just mothers," said Bell, who has four children ages 15-20. "Curt and I stress the need for minority volunteers because of the different cultures: things that are acceptable in one community, but not another. I think we need younger volunteers also because I have teenagers at home and they talk in their own language and we need to have someone who can break that down."

The Chicago Public Health Dept. estimates there are 2,800 cases of HIV infection on the far West Side. Youth uneducated about the virus don't know how to protect themselves. This new program will arm them with life-saving information. Although the project targets four specific neighborhoods, all Chicago youth are welcome at the drop-in center.

"We know that sexual minority youth are at heightened risk for HIV infection, school avoidance, substance abuse, runaway/throwaway homelessness, survival sex work and suicide," Hicks said. "Preventing some of this harm with affirmation, peer support and skill-building is a challenge we're eager to tackle."

Bell grew up on the South Side in the Ida B Wells Projects. "I was one of the 'chosen' to go to a North Side high school," she said, remembering a tough transition into mostly Caucasian Josephinum High School. "I went to Holy Angels Catholic Elementary School and the cardinal at the time decided to integrate the Catholic schools. My older sister was the only African American at St. Gregory and I told my mom I didn't want to be No. 2; I'm not a pioneer."

She chose a more integrated Josephinum and endured high school. After a counselor told her she wasn't college material, Bell worked the next several years as a secretary. She married and began raising a family, but when her husband lost his steel mill job after 19 years with the company, Bell took on three jobs to make ends meet. She didn't attend college until her youngest child was three years old, but now owns an undergraduate degree in corporate communications and a master's degree in human resources.

Bell might not see herself as a pioneer, but she's setting out to tame territory that will make life better for today's young people.

Call Bell at (312) 626-1443 for info.

DON'T MISS!

Dr. Betty Shabazz, widow of slain civil-rights leader **Malcolm X,** gives a rare interview— in the special Black History Month episode of the gay TV show *In The Life,* Tuesday, Feb. 7, 11 p.m., on **WTTW-Channel 11** in Chicago. Also interviewed are **U.S. Rep. Barney Frank;** filmmaker **Isaac Julien** (with excerpts of his new film *The Darker Side of Black*); publisher/activist **Barbara Smith;** a preview of *Holiday Heart,* a NY premiere about a Black drag queen, with Director **Tazwell Thompson; Margaret Cammermeyer,** and more.

Patricia Bell-Scott, editor of *Life Notes: Personal Writing by Contemporary Black Women,* reads and discusses her book Thursday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. at **Women & Children First Bookstore,** 5233 N. Clark.

The **Literary Exchange** celebrates its 10th anniversary Feb. 18 at **Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children,** 1545 W. Morse, 8:30 p.m. L.E. is an organization for African-American women interested in literature, and they are also co-sponsors of the annual **International Women's Day Dance,** set this year for March 4 at Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan; 509-6881 for info. Tix are $15 advance, $20 at door; available at Women & Children First, People Like Us, Prairie Moon, A Book for all Seasons, and Pride Agenda.

Chicago NOW is hosting a poetic **tribute to African-American women** Feb. 9, YWCA, 180 N. Wabash, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Poetry will be recited by **Jesse Jackson Jr., Marva Collins, Robin Robinson,** & others; $10 advance; 922-0025.

Lavender Tulip Productions has announced a new **video project about African-American lesbian and gay activists in Chicago.** Pre-production has begun, and completion is expected in June. Volunteers and historical material needed; 276-8371. **Mary Morten,** an activist and producer of the award-winning documentary *The NIA Project,* about African-American lesbians, will be producing the documentary in cooperation with several African-American gay and lesbian organizations. The 16-minute *NIA Project,* by Morten and **Natalie Hutchison,** is available for a special rate during Black History Month; call for info.

Black lesbian cultural activists **Donna Rose** and **Yvonne Welbon** are among panelists at **P-Form's** discussion on *Feminism: Commodification and Identity Politics,* Feb. 15, 8 p.m., $3, Randolph St. Gallery, 756 Milwaukee, 666-7737.

The **Museum of Broadcast Communications** is celebrating African-American contributions to media this month, including **An Evening with Warner Saunders** Feb. 1. Ongoing during the month, gay filmmaker **Marlon Riggs'** *Color Adjustment,* images of African-Americans on TV, will be shown, and an exhibit on **African American Images in Advertising,** will be presented. [Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington; 629-6000.]

The **U. of Illinois at Chicago** is featuring "Pulse of the Drums: Celebration of Our Past and Future" for Black History Month. Among events is a poetry reading Feb. 21 by **Gwendolyn Brooks,** 7 p.m., 750 S. Halsted; 413-5070.

"Amandla! Celebrating South Africa," a festival of musical performance, films and lectures celebrating the beginning of South African freedom, takes place Feb. 7-28 at the **Chicago Cultural Center,** 78 E. Washington, organized by the Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs. Call 346-3278 for details. Events include Feb. 15, 5 p.m. screening of films *Goldwidows* (four women who live as 'widows,' prevented by apartheid from living with their miner husbands), and *The Color of Gold* (how miners struggled with that separation, and how that separation fueled issues such as prostitution and AIDS). Films shown Feb. 28 feature women in South Africa.

The **Chicago Public Library** looks at the role of **African-American Lawyers and Judges** this month in a series of forums. Call J. Ingrid Lesley, 747-4740, for info.

Lorraine Hansberry was a well-known lesbian and one of the first African-American women to be honored for her playwrighting. *Raisin,* a Broadway musical based on Hansberry's ground-breaking *A Raisin in the Sun,* comes to Chicago's New Regal Theatre, 1645 E. 79th St, for just one week, starting Feb. 21, starring Grammy-winner Peabo Bryson; 374-3276.

The **United Negro College Fund** hosts a celebrity fashion show, presented by Art Sims and Tracey Hughes, Feb. 4, at the Chicago Hilton. It will be hosted by WLS-TV's Cheryl Burton and Jim Rose and will feature such celebrity models as WGCI's Doug Banks and WMAQ's Art Norman. Call Ticketmaster 559-1212.

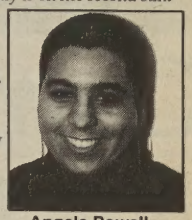
See p. 16 for more events, theatre, & arts for Black History Month.

—Tracy Baim

Stop AIDS re-opens a South Side office as part of African-American outreach

by Cathy Seabaugh

Angela Powell always figured she'd end up in the social services field. Since coming to Chicago two-and-a-half years ago, she has spent a four-month internship with the Chicago Foundation for Women and currently is on her second stint with Stop AIDS.



Angela Powell.
Photo: Cathy Seabaugh

"Our focus is the African-American community, in general, then we target youth ages 13-21 and the adults who are directly in their lives," said 26-year-old Powell, assistant director of Stop AIDS' African-American program. "We also do bar outreach to gay and bisexual Black men."

Powell previously worked for Stop AIDS as a development and administrative assistant, then left the non-profit circle to become People Like Us bookstore's first full-time employee. Whether it was her sociology degree or voices in the night, she found herself called back to social service.

"I wanted to put my energy into the Black community and effect healthy change," she said. "Having worked with Stop AIDS before, I was familiar with their message and felt good about getting that out to the community. And I think it's a really needed message, too. The ultimate message is about behavior change."

The South Shore is the second-hardest hit community in Chicago, Powell said.

"We make sure the message of Stop AIDS gets translated into a language they understand," she explained. "Gay/bi men on the North Side have been having in-home discussion groups in an individual's home. That doesn't work in our community. We have in-house discussion groups at our office space or in another neutral space."

Powell's job is primarily prevention work, but individuals sometimes open up in Stop AIDS discussion groups, she said, and reveal they've been diagnosed HIV-positive. "It's only been within the past five years that the African-American community started addressing the issue," she said. "A lot of it is there's a great deal of denial in the community. We still have lots of late diagnoses, some people who die (from AIDS-related causes) before they've even been diagnosed.

Stop AIDS offers HIV/AIDS education in the form of discussion groups and presentations, "anywhere anyone wants us to be," said Powell, a native of Ann Arbor, Mich. and graduate of Goshen College. The African-American program now is fully staffed with two educators, leaving Powell to concentrate more on program development and to represent Stop AIDS in other community organizations.

Powell accepted the assistant director's job four months ago, shortly after she and partner Kathleen Howe held a commitment ceremony on a Michigan farm. Her father, a Mennonite preacher, sang at the ceremony.

"I'd have to say one of the obstacles I face is that Stop AIDS is considered a white organization, and it's not," Powell said. "I've seen Stop AIDS grow. It's a much stronger organization (than in 1992), with more cohesiveness."

For info on the Stop AIDS African-American program, call (312) 235-2586 or (312) 871-3300. The African-American office will soon re-open on the South Side, at 1718 E. 75th Street.

Open Hand reaches South

Open Hand Chicago has teamed with Staff of Life, a not-for-profit meals program at 368 71st St., to prepare the 170 or more meals daily to be delivered free of charge, two meals per client each week. Open Hand also plans to open a South Side HIV/AIDS Grocery Center in April, where clients can pick up groceries. Call (312) 665-1000..

Illustration by Frank Norfleet — Design by Kevin Pütz, Toolbox Inc.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans throughout history.

In the spirit of this celebration, the African American Program of **STOP AIDS** proudly announces the opening of its relocated office at:

1718 E. 75th Street

STOP AIDS African American Program

HONORING OUR ANCESTORS BY CARING FOR OUR FUTURE

We welcome inquiries about our new offices and services. For information please call 312-871-3300.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black vs. Gay: A Question of Identity

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

by Otis Richardson

by Robert Schultz

"Take your freak stuff back to the North Side!" was the advice given to the gay African-American guests on a Sylvia Ewing's inaugural talk show on WVON-AM a few years ago. WVON, the all-Black, all-talk radio station with a broadcast primarily on the South Side was the forum where former Chicago personality Joan Jett Blakk, a.k.a. Terrance Smith, and I were baptized by a verbal fire of hate, fear and homophobia. The vindictive attitude expressed by the caller was typical of many callers that night. Ewing, now a media consultant and producer, recalls that her show's subject matter caused some tension among her colleagues. Today the station staff has a greater comfort about homosexuality in the Black community. Reflecting that "the African-American community doesn't have anybody to waste," she remains confident that her decision to confront homophobia within her own community through that show was right.

"We ain't family. Very clearly, gay male means: white, middle-class, youthful, nautilized, and probably butch; there is no room for Black gay men within the confines of this gay Pentagon." This is the conclusion written in the introduction to the anthology *In the Life*. Although written about 10 years ago, *In the Life's* editor Joseph Beam's lamentation about the lack of African-American visibility in the gay community still has a ring of truth to it. Some may argue that the situation has improved. However, a random check of gay media reveals little improvement over the past. The media does not show the diverse mosaic of the various racial and ethnic groups that are part of the reality of the gay community.

There are a life and a community between these attitudinal poles that define the existence of African-American lesbian and gays. Noted psychiatrist and author Dr. Allen Poussaint observed in 1990 that African-American lesbians and gays had primary identification with the homosexual or the African-American community. His views, endorsed by some African-American lesbians and gays, saw a choice between competing mutually exclusive identities. Recent local developments show that such a dichotomy is eroding. Last fall's Unity Conference, organized by Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, and the participation of Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays in the annual Bud Billiken parade, are examples. In the vacuum between the poles of a mutually exclusive Black and homosexual identity there is a growing community coming into existence and self realization that is Black, homosexual and proud.

The Personal is Political

In trying to get a clearer picture of this distinction between "Black" and "gay," OUTLINES interviewed a few local African-American gays and lesbians about their own identity.

First recalling the days of the Daughters of Bilitis, Marianne Jordan, 56, cites her involvement as an openly Black lesbian in the campaign that elected Carol Moseley Braun to the U.S. Senate as the most recent example of a personal history which includes periods of a high degree of open involvement in the life of the greater community. Expressing an understanding that African-Americans living in their communities may remain closeted, she affirmed, "being a lesbian is nothing to be ashamed of."

Andre, 24, earning money in the retail industry to support his education, asserted that he was a man first, Black second and gay third. Although not an activist he saw himself engaged as a productive participant in his community. Andre admitted that his youth contributes to a continued enthusiasm for the gay club life but the fact that many friends are impacted by HIV challenges his need to increase awareness about AIDS for himself and his friends.

While for some AIDS awareness means private action, support, caring and comfort among friends and associates, for Michael Pleasants, 28, community involvement means giving time, talent and money to HIV-specific and gay-specific causes. As the board president of Test Positive Aware, he notes, "One doesn't have to be gay to be a part of the gay community." He cites the involvement of many non-gays in Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays as proof. Like many Black lesbians and gays he understands that he is the sum of his experiences and influences. Though at times one aspect of his life may be more dominant over another, together those collective experiences shape him. Pleasants is out as being HIV positive and believes that all Americans need to fight for the dignity for all Americans. Pleasants concluded, "There is more that binds us together than the differences" among people. Hoping that society won't focus on the divisions and differences is important to him.

American society is finally being forced to wrestle with the differences that do exist. While some pundits lead the charge against the perceived ills of multi-culturalism, others recognize that this reflects the universality of the human experience. When National Public Radio talk show host Ray Suarez moderated a recent discussion on the show *Talk of the Nation*, aired locally on WBEZ-FM, between the authors of the three books that attempted to list the 100 most important Gay, Jewish and African-American historical and contemporary figures, the discussion concluded with the fact that after a review of the rich diversity of the lives of the personalities in each book one could only say that among these groups there was a rich diversity that doesn't permit one to stereotype about any group again.

Aaron, 23, a student at a local university, represents that inability to stereotype both the gay and the African-American experience. As a Black gay Hispanic he related his joy at seeing so many Black gay men at the now defunct Clubhouse. However, his elation was tempered when he realized that what he took for common in his experiences was different from many of the patrons in the bar.

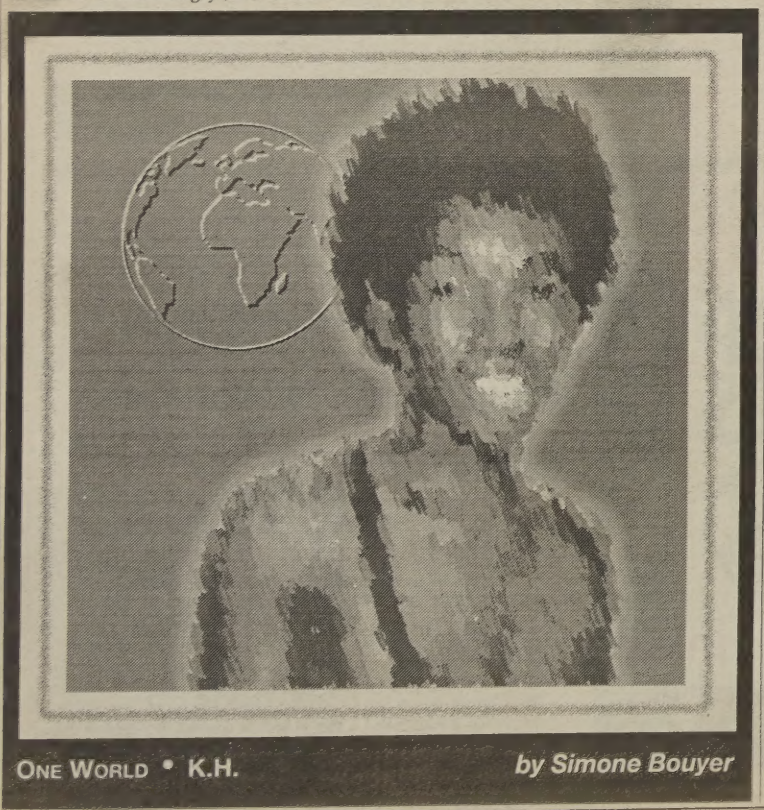
One thing that the emphasis on diversity is doing is showing that one can no longer take one's own experiences for common. To do so excludes the experience of others. The failure of Black lesbians to meet in accessible meeting places limited the ability of Nicci Winter, 38, a wheelchair user, to participate at times in various developments within the Black lesbian community. Activist Darrel Gordon, 34, similarly noted the inability of both the African-American and the lesbian and gay communities to adapt to the internal diversity of each community. He noted race bias among white gays and class distinction among Blacks as causing problems. "The fight for self-determination should include Black, gay, lesbian and transgendered people. If one group is denied, no one is free. (We) need to challenge our heterosexual counterparts in the Black community."

This past fall at the 4th Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute, held in Chicago, the African-American and openly gay head of medical services for the federal penitentiary system, Dr. German Maisonette, brought the house down when he noted that for many people growing up with that "funny" uncle or aunt, who would suddenly appear at the start of the school year or during the holidays with necessities or extras one's parents couldn't afford, was an essential yet unrecognized part of the African-American community. It was enlightening to see all the nodding Asian, Hispanic, Native-American and Caucasian heads to this often unrecognized fact.

Ralph, 40, a South Sider, remembered how such people were accepted to a point in the African American community. Carl, 36, a travel industry professional, emphasized that it is these same people who are adding to the richness of life by being artists, dancers, the educated and the doers in the community. Rhetorically Nicci asked, "Where would we be without these people? Gays are in every family."

Many times people identified their friends and family as the first building blocks of a larger African-American lesbian and gay community. "I'm not an activist but provide spiritual and practical support for my friends with HIV and encourage safe sex for my friends," notes Carl when asked about the existence of such a community in his life.

Les Brown, 34, an office worker, summed it up best of anyone. After noting that his community was first built around his Black gay friendships, he said it was important that he carry himself at all times as, "open, visible and proud."



ONE WORLD • K.H. *by Simone Bouyer*

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
A struggle for diversity

This fall, Boston's 30,000-student Northeastern University added gays and lesbians to their affirmative-action program. As other institutions struggle to make the right ethical decision as well as one that can be perceived by all donors and constituencies as politically correct, many questions are raised:

- Will such policies pit women and people of color against the gay community?
- Will the struggle of African-American gays to fight against homophobia become focused on fighting racism in the white gay community rather than homophobia at home?
- Can institutions who are resource-challenged withstand the backlash of adding gays and lesbians without hurting the potential benefit to African-Americans and women?
- Will proponents of affirmative action still recognize the importance of creating some temporary inequities in order to create equalities?
- Will the academic benefits realized by Black studies, gay studies and women's studies be furthered by such a policy or will it simply add to the recent trend of white men to attempt to assert that race, gender and sexuality have not caused economic or social disadvantages?

—Steve Wakefield

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

J

I want you to listen
to the words my body
speaks to you
slanted and staring
under dreadlocks and eyes
so dark
so thunder like
I am trapped
trembling
inside
this pocket of air
soundless stretching
counting the spaces
between here
the blood in your neck
the petite mounds
making up your breasts
that stretch of skin
squeezing itself
and releasing
spots of
red yellow
shocks on my skin
pushing me
pulling me
taking me closer
so i can
slide slide
next to you
standing sedate
in my dreaming
making more room
for this circling
inside my breasts
slipping
dipping sinking
targeted on you
thinking of the
sounds you make
gestures we could
form
and i don't imagine
just am
a black fever
needing to burn.

by Kemina L. Glover

Author Jewelle Gomez in Milwaukee

Jewelle Gomez delivers a speech by Audre Lorde *in absentia* at the 1990 Lambda Book Awards ceremony. Lorde, who has since passed away, was undergoing cancer treatments at the time. Photo by Jorjet Harper

Award-winning poet and novelist Jewelle Gomez will read from her work Saturday, March 18, 8 p.m. at Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, $5 admission. Gomez is the author of the Black lesbian vampire novel *The Gilda Stories,* winner of two Lambda Literary Awards. "As a Black person, a woman, and a lesbian, I'm concerned about how we think of ourselves in the future," Gomez said. Call (414) 263-5001 for info on this full-length reading of her work.

Black Baby

U give new meaning to the words black and beautiful
Just like rhythm,
U R black and beautiful.
I could look U up and down so hard,
U R my daily fix.
I could lay back, unsated 'till it is all gone.
U intoxicate me with the purple wine between your luscious hips.
I 'd drink all of U,
'till there's not even a sip.
Black baby, damn!
They say black is back,
but U could never go out of style.
U R classic.
U set the tone for all colors.
Without U, there is no other.

by Hana Anderson

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in Chicago March 31-April 2

Bill T. Jones

Presenting *Still/Here,* the Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company will thrill Chicago audiences for three nights only, March 31 through April 2. *Still/Here* is Jones' first major full-length work since his critically acclaimed *Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land.* The attending furor has landed Jones on the covers of TIME and POZ magazines, as well generating extensive coverage in the dance press and mainstream publications like NEWSWEEK and THE NEW YORKER. Jones is undoubtedly an excellent choreographer merely receiving his due, but one cannot help but be surprised and delighted by the attention this superb artist is receiving when one appreciates that Jones is very open about being gay, as well as about living with HIV.

For although the dance world is considered by many to be a virtual breeding ground for homosexuality, the homophobia within this realm—and the sanitized press surrounding it—has perpetuated a terrifying silence regarding how AIDS has attacked its denizens. Not so very long ago, Rudolf Nureyev died of AIDS complications without ever publicly acknowledging his disease or even his sexuality. And Robert Joffrey was so terrified of disclosing the truth behind the illness that was slowly killing him that it almost destroyed his company. But Jones and Arnie Zane, his late companion of 17 years, have confronted and confounded the walls of silence, and long ago spoke, and danced, openly as lovers living with HIV. For some, this may not seem like such a big deal. But the risks involved, as artists carving their own niche in a notoriously competitive and fickle world, were and still are manifold. Yet in taking these risks, Jones and Zane maintained a searing integrity and truth in their work. And, as they, and their gorgeous legacy, help us all move forward in breaking down the barriers of ignorance and fear, we should be profoundly grateful that people are finally sitting up and taking notice.

Still/Here meditates on the questions of survival in life-threatening situations, by asking difficult questions such as: "What does it mean to be told the double mastectomy wasn't enough, the cancer has spread, you're going to die?" "What does it mean that a virus that causes AIDS is in your blood?" Indeed, "what does it mean to be Still/Here?" *Still/Here* is a poetic exploration of all these questions, alternately helpful and uplifting, and serious and shocking.

Being HIV+, and having lost Zane, Jones wanted to transcribe the issues he had dealt with and continues to deal with into an artistic vision. The work is divided up into two sections. The first, *Still,* is a slow, haunting, lamenting portrayal of human will and survival, set to an original composition by classical composer Kenneth Frazelle and sung by folk-singer Odetta. The second, *Here,* is a dance set to a composition inlaid with dialogue by rock composer/performer Vernon Reid, of the rock group Living Color. The multimedia set design, which consists of television monitors mounted on carts, and projected screens, will play images from Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's outreach in various communities around the world.

An important and stirring record of the potency of human resilience, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's *Still/Here* is simply not to be missed.

At the Shubert Theatre, 22 W. Monroe, March 31st at 7 p.m., April 1 at 8 .pm., and April 2 at 3 p.m., (312) 722-5463.

—Dominic Hamilton-Little

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

James Earl Hardy fills a great desire with *B-Boys Blues*

by Mark Johnson

You would never hear it from *The Boyz in the 'hood*. Nor, for that matter, from the boys in *South Central* or *New Jack City*. In these movies, which depicted the hard and rough lifestyles of many Black men in gang-infested neighborhoods in Los Angeles and New York, it would never come up.

Nevertheless, many movie-goers fantasized about it as they watched the good-looking, hardbodied "manly men" on the screen.

But, what so far has been left tucked away to the imagination on the screen, jumps to life in the pages of a new novel called *B-Boy Blues* (Alyson Publications).

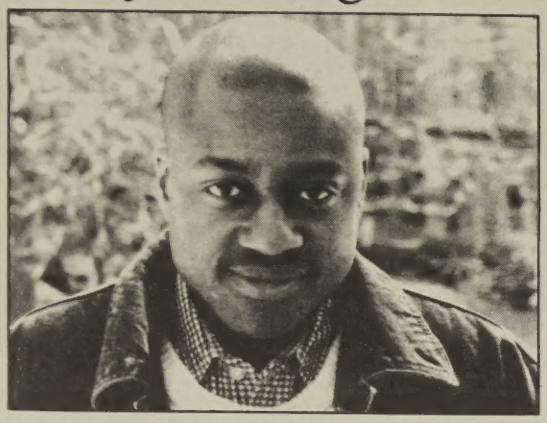
Debut author James Earl Hardy shatters the notion that "Block" or "Banja" boy—those masculine, extremely "buff and ruff", construction-booted, low-pants-wearing, often bald-headed, chiseled-chest Black men that are the stuff of many fantasies, are incapable of loving another man and good only for street corner or basketball court adornment.

Here is where *Boyz in the 'hood* meets *Love Story*, with a touch of *The Golden Girls* for added gay flavor. Rather than kill each other, the men cook for, look after and love each other. "Our friendships are not just friendships but an extended family," Hardy explains.

At the same time, they do the "B-boy thing" as they ride around in their jeeps, click their beepers, or shoot hoops on the basketball court. Other uglier elements of big city street warfare do exist here, too.

This is not standard fare in gay fiction, and it certainly is a departure for the images of young, urban African-American men.

But that's precisely why Hardy wrote the book. "After years and years of complaining to myself and others about not seeing a story like this on book shelves, I decided to do it myself," he says. "I set out to write a story in which a Black gay man lives and loves in a Black gay world.



Author James Earl Hardy

"I wanted to do a story," Hardy continues, "in which Blacks are not portrayed as categorically pathological."

And so far, he says, he has been pleased with the response. "People who have written to the publisher or that I come across in bookstores, say they feel so affirmed by the book," Hardy claims. "They say, here is something that validates my existence."

"My book shows that support and nurturing activity is possible"—even among banjis, those "brothers" who exhibit no visible signs of being gay. In fact, to the contrary, most people would assume they were straight and probably a member of a street gang.

According to Hardy, whose writing portfolio includes articles in OUT magazine and THE WASHINGTON POST, he has not exactly lived the experiences he writes about, but he has either seen much of it through friends or recalled some from his own life. Although he has not had a relationship with a "phyne" (pronounced "fine") "hard and rough" B-Boy (or is he?) like Raheim, the subject of the novel, he has certainly seen the type growing up in Brooklyn, New York, where they were probably invented.

"I clearly know what it is like to be a Black man and also a Black gay man," Hardy points out. "We are assaulted for being men of African descent and also being homosexual; we get it from all ends."

As a consequence, he concludes, it's natural that Black men, including gay men, would take out their frustrations on each other. "But what we really need is to learn to appreciate ourselves and each other better," Hardy says of African-American men who are gay. "We don't do this enough, probably because of our place in this society."

Much of what his protagonist, Mitchell Crawford, a publishing professional, goes through "is from my own life," Hardy notes. "I have seen the racism and the homophobia in the publishing world, like you may not believe."

Though he says he has no bitterness now, Hardy acknowledges that *B-Boy Blues* was turned down by almost 24 publishers before finally being accepted by Alyson Publications, a gay publishing house in Boston, that, according to its director, Alistair Williamson, immediately saw the potential for the book. "We were excited about the book for two reasons," says Williamson. "It is well-written and it tackles a subject area not seen a lot—that of Black men in love with Black men."

Black men are a group of gay people that have not received the amount of attention they deserve, Williamson concludes. With the pride that comes from making a smart business decision, he notes that the leap of faith that Alyson took in publishing the book did not result in a death plummet. In fact to the contrary, the book "is flying out the door in bookstores in large cities," he boasts. According to Williamson's list, the book was recently either number two or number three among best new sellers in gay bookstores around the country.

Alyson notwithstanding, Hardy has criticism for the publishing world in general. "I don't think that [publishers] take [Black gay writers] seriously." He makes this statement with confidence in light of his travails in getting the book on the shelves.

"They don't see a market out there or they don't think that people would want to read this type of story," Hardy concludes. Like other Black gay novelists who have confronted the same brick wall, Hardy believes that the attitude of many in the publishing world is one of indifference. According to him, many publishers seem to believe that "because a work is about Black gay men, a constituency that they may have no familiarity with, it has no viability."

E. Lynn Harris, another Black gay novelist who has achieved more "mainstream" success over the past year with the publication of his second novel, *Just As I Am*, by Doubleday Publishers (after he first went the self-publishing route), is a writer that Hardy points to as an example. "Often [Black gay writers] have to publish books ourselves to get the attention of more established publishing houses." Although, Hardy realizes, this is not necessarily a bad thing, "because it gets us in the habit of taking care of our own business and doing it for ourselves."

And, like other Black gay writers, Hardy does not necessarily assume that only other African-American gay men would be interested in his work, though, he admits that this is the group he had in mind when writing *B-Boy Blues*. "Anyone who enjoys a good love story should find the book readable," the salesman in him emphasizes. "Many straight people can identify with the story of two people from different sides of the tracks coming together." Of Black gay love fiction, Hardy states that "our stories are universal because people go through what we go through everyday in this world too."

Hardy does not intend to write only fiction works, though he has no trouble being dubbed a Black gay writer. Two upcoming projects include a biography of filmmaker Spike Lee to be published by Chelsea House in New York, and also a history of the evolution of gospel music and its influence on American popular culture, tentatively scheduled for publication in November.

For those with a b-boy addiction, Hardy promises a second "fix" sometime "soon." But, he won't say when, or what the next book will be about, other than that it will touch on some unresolved issues from *B-Boy Blues*.

Hardy and his publishers say there has already been talk of a movie version of *B-Boy Blues*. Though it is premature to decide who would play the role is such a project, anyone who has read *B-Boy Blues* should know who Hardy would choose for the b-boy role. He has met the actor before and feels that he would be comfortable playing the character of a basketball-toting gay man.

However, this time, Wesley Snipes would not be shooting hoops in a face-off with a white male actor, he would be playing "suck face" with a cute Black one. If this project should ever become a reality, Black 'hood movies will never be the same again.

Sinclair's *Coffee Will Make You Black* in paperback

reviewed by Barbara I. Bond

Some things in life transcend the boundaries of culture, economics, and race. One such thing is that tumultuous time called adolescence.

These often trying years are highlighted by peer pressure, blossoming sexuality, and the search for individuality. April Sinclair uses an unassuming style to put these things into wry perspective in her first novel. *Coffee Will Make You Black* (first available in hardcover by Hyperion, now due out in paperback by Avon this month; $10) is the chronicle of a young girl's coming of age and her struggle to be true to her own nature.

Jean "Stevie" Stevenson is a young, Black girl growing up on Chicago's South Side in the late '60s. Sinclair skillfully uses idiomatic phrases and colorful descriptions to tell the familiar teen story.

The Stevenson family is a close-knit matriarchy ruled by the firm hand of Stevie's mama. Mama fiercely loves her daughter and desperately wants to protect her from the dangers of growing up. To Stevie's constant embarrassment, Mama also has this annoying habit of correcting the grammar of anyone Stevie brings around. Stevie adores her maternal grandma Dickens, a transplanted Southerner, who runs the successful Mother Dickens' Fried Chicken. There's also her daddy and two brothers, who celebrate with Neapolitan ice cream when Stevie wins her first fight.

Stevie, in her quest to be cool and popular, winds up hanging out with a series of gum-cracking girls her mama doesn't like. Stevie sheds one friend after another, in search of a best friend. As she continues looking, Stevie learns some tough lessons that Sinclair describes in frank and often humorous terms. A couple of years quickly pass and suddenly Stevie is in high school. Now everything is different. Former nerd Roland, who Stevie refused to walk home with in junior high, is a vocal member of the new Afro-American Club. He also has an afro, and favors dashikis, fatigues, and combat boots. Roland turns out to be a loyal friend and ally to Stevie.

The politics of the era continue to seep into the high school. Stevie expands her burgeoning political awareness and discovers Black is beautiful. In authentic detail, Sinclair shows how Stevie deals with well-meaning white liberal teachers. When the high school goes up in flames, Stevie runs to the safety of Grandma Dickens arms as the city explodes after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Stevie, in an act of defiance, gets her own afro and becomes a sister.

But, Stevie still doesn't feel like she fits in anywhere. She has an obligatory boyfriend, who has the status of being a senior and inviting her to his prom. Faced with the prospect of eventually "doing it," Stevie can only muster lukewarm enthusiasm. One day Stevie visits the nurse, who launches into a lecture on teenage pregnancy because she is concerned about Stevie's future. Nurse Horn later enlists Stevie as her student aide. Stevie starts spending more time with the thoughtful young nurse, although her grandmother warns she can never be real friends with a white woman. As they grow closer, Stevie starts shedding some of her previously held beliefs, and realizes that maybe being different isn't so bad, after all.

In *Coffee Will Make You Black*, April Sinclair takes a fresh look at the changing times of the '60s. The entertaining story successfully shows the torment and confusion of the years, without being melodramatic or too serious. Stevie is facing decisions that will change her life.

Perhaps she puts it best when reflecting on recent events. "My life might not turn out to be easy ... I just hoped that I turned out to be strong."

LITERARY RESOURCES

Addresses in Chicago (312 area code) unless noted

A Book for All Seasons,
114 S. Bloomingdale Rd. Bloomingdale 60108.....(708) 893-9866
Afrocentric Bookstore, 234 S. Wabash, 60604.....939-1956
Gay Men's Book Discussion Group/Gerber/Hart Library.....883-3003
Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, 3352 N. Paulina, 60657.....883-3003
Midwest's largest gay and lesbian archives, FAX 883-3078
Left Bank Bookstall/Left Bank Culture Club.....(708) 383-4700
104 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302, 1-800-287-BOOK
Lesbian Book Discussion Group/Gerber-Hart Library.....883-3003
Literary Exchange, PO Box 438583, 60643.....509-6881
People Like Us Books, 3321 N. Clark, 60657.....248-6363
Platypus Book Shop, 606 Dempster, Evanston, 60202.....(708) 866-8040
Prairie Moon, Ltd., 8 N. Dunton, Arlington Heights 60005.....708) 342-9608
Pride Agenda Bookstore, 1109 Westgate, Oak Park, 60301..(708) 524-8429
Unabridged Bookstore, 3251 N. Broadway, 60657.....883-9119
Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark, 60640.....769-9299

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Club Lucky

1824 W. Wabansia, 227-2300

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Da Nicola Ristorante

3114 N. Lincoln, (312) 935-8000

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Jezebel

3517 N. Clark, 929-4000

Jezebel is a feast for the eyes as well as the palate. Often described as the most beautiful restaurant in Chicago, Jezebel will transport you to the lovely Mediterranean featuring delectable cuisine of the region. Jezebel presents an eclectic menu of delicious fresh seafood, pasta, chicken and beef dishes. Let Jezebel cater your holiday parties. Deliveries are now available. Mention OUTLINES while dining and receive a complementary bottle of Jezebel wine.

Julie Mai's Le Bistro

5025 N. Clark, 784-6000

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Mike's Broadway Cafe

3805 N. Broadway, 404-2205

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Paladino's

832 W. Randolph, 455-1400 (delivery 455-2700)

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The Pepper Lounge

3441 N. Sheffield (at Clark) 665-7377

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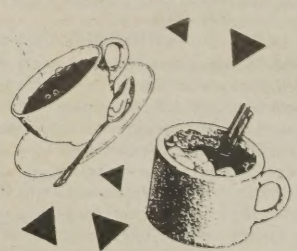

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

RESOURCES

The following are African-American gay/lesbian and related services. Area code (312) unless noted. For a comprehensive directory of more than 30 pages of resources, pick up a copy of the OUT! Resource Guide of gay and lesbian supportive businesses, professionals and organizations, published by Outlines twice per year.

▼ African-American Resources

Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays, P.O. Box 198573, 60619 .493-3848
African American Womyn's Alliance (South Side-Based).....324-5120
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573, Lesbian support grps
Black Men's Exchange/Midwest, 5128 S. Bishop, 1st flr., rear, 60609..... 824-8222
Black Women's Exchange, 3419 Martin L. King Way, Oakland, CA 94109 (510) 601-9066
BRIDGES, 'zine for Black lesbians (bi-monthly), POB49119, 60649.....493-7662
BROTHERRS, 6540 S. Woodlawn, 60637 (publish VOICES newsletter).....667-8313
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays, 5828 N. Winthrop,
Chicago, IL 60660-3512.....275-8669, 871-2117
EXECUTIVE SWEET, 1607 W. Barry, 60657 *social events for lesbians*
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 617602, 60661 929-5887
Group Dialogue *Social support for Black gay men*.....224-5142
Harriet Tubman Place for sexual minority youth 626-1443
Austin, East and West Garfield, North Lawndale
Image Plus (Black gay youth outreach), 1525 E. 53rd, #516-5,60615-4530 ..684-3100
Black Gay Male HIV Relapse Prevention, and other support groups.
Literary Exchange, PO Box 438583, 60643 LITERARY EXPRESS JOURNAL ..509-6881
Men of All Colors Together 907-8993/327-5033
SBC Magazine/Chicago, 5128 S. Bishop, 1st flr., rear, Chgo 60609..... 824-8222
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, Sun service 4pm, 1448 E. 53rd.....878-7839
Yahimba, 1012-1/2 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60202.....(708) 328-7715
Lesbians of African descent coming together for empowerment & unity.

▼ AIDS & Health Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club, 4403-07 N. Clark, 60613 271-6822
ACT UP/Chicago, PO Box 579002, #275, 60613, FAX 271-2618 509-6802
AIDS Hotline/Statewide (Horizons).....1-800-AID-AIDS
AIDS Alternative Health Project,4753 Broadway, #1110, 60640.....561-2800
AIDS Foundation of Chicago,411 S. Wells, #300, 60607, FAX 922-2916..922-2322
AIDS/HIV Housing Law Project. (TDD 431-1206) 347-8384, 347-8301
African-American AIDS Network 722-4400
Chicago House, 913 Belmont, 60657; FAX 248-5019.....248-5200
Chicago Women's AIDS Project, 5249 N. Kenmore, 60640.....271-2070
Chicago Women's Health Center, 3435 N. Sheffield, 60657.....935-6126
City of Chicago Office of AIDS Prevention, TDD744-2960.....747-AIDS
Cook County Department Of Public Health.....(708) 445-2525
Cook County Hospital AIDS Program, 1835 W. Harrison, 60612....633-5182
Howard Brown Health Center, 945 W.George, 60657
HIV and primary health care for men and women, FAX 871-5843 871-5777
Kupona Network, 4611 S. Ellis, 2nd Flr., 60653; FAX 536-8355 536-3000
Lesbian Community Cancer Project, "Pat Parker Place,"
Uptown National Bank Bldg, 4753 N. Broadway, #602, 60640 561-4662
Minority Outreach Intervention Project (Latino/Afric. Amer. gay & bi men)
1579 N. Milwaukee, Suite 314, 60622.....276-5990
National Minority AIDS Council.....(202) 544-1076
National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (BWMT).....(415) 255-8378
Open Hand Chicago, 909 Belmont, #100, 60657, FAX 665-0044.....665-1000
San Francisco Immune Concepts, POBox 423168, San Francisco 94142
African-American AIDS collective, medical alternatives.....1-800-889-0918
STOP AIDS Chicago, 909 W. Belmont, 60657, FAX 871-2528.....871-3300
Latino-American Office: 1352 N Western, 60622 FAX 235-2662.....235-2586
See info this issue on new South Side office.
Test Positive Aware Network, 1258 W. Belmont, 60657 472-6397

▼ Helplines

Chicago Commission on Human Relations
Advisory Council on Gay/Lesbian Issues (Larry McKeon, director) .744-7911
Employ./public access bias; Fax 744-1081, 744-7584; Housing 744-2852
Cook County Commission on Human Rights
Employment, housing and public accommodations (TDD 443-5255) 443-3456
Cook County State's Attorney's Office Gay and Lesbian
Victim/Witness Coordinator (Vernita Gray) (TDD 890-7494) 890-7212
Horizons Community Services, (TDD) 327-HELP.....929-HELP
Anti-Violence: 871-CARE; AIDS: 1-800-AID-AIDS
Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund,
17 E. Monroe, #212 60603, FAX (312) 641-5454 759-8110
NATIONAL: 666 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York NY 10012 .....(212) 995-8585
National Center for Lesbian Rights
870 Market St, #570, San Francisco, CA 94102.....(415) 392-6257
New York: 462 Broadway, #500A, NY, 10013, FX343-9687....(212) 343-9589

▼ National & International

African American Gay and Lesbian Studies Center
P.O. Box 56202, Los Angeles, CA 90056-0202
Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum *(Feb. 16-20, 1995 in Los Angeles)*
1219 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019, FAX (213) 964-7830 (213) 964-7820
1101 - 14th St., NW, 2nd flr.,Washington,D.C., FX (202) 347-5323 (202) 628-4160, x8047
Black Men's Exchange/National, POBox 8216, L.A., CA 90308 .....(212) 281-7742
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund,
1012 - 14th St NW, Suite 707, Washington, DC 20005.....(202) VICTORY
Human Rights Campaign Fund, FAX (202) 347-5323
1012 14th St. NW, #607, Washington D.C. 20005.....(202) 628-4160
International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission FAX (415) 255-8662
1360 Mission St., #200, San Fran., CA 94103 (E-mail iglhrc@igc.apc.org) (415) 255-8680
International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), Micha Ramakers,
Information Secretary-ILGA, c/o Antenne Rose, 81 rue Marche-au-Charbon,
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium....FAX 011-32-2-478-81-85, Phone 011-32-2-502-24-71
c/o Center for Global Action Project, 208 W. 13th St., NY,NY 10011 (212) 685-1498
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.....FAX (212) 995-2306
666 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York NY 10012.....(212) 995-8585
National Association of Black & White Men Together.....(202) 462-3599
1747 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20020; 1-800 NA4BWMT, FAX (202) 462-3690
National Black Women's Health Project 1237 Gordon SW, Atlanta, GA
National Center for Lesbian Rights
870 Market, #570, San Fran, CA 94102/FAX 415-392-8442.....(415) 392-6257
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) .....*FAX* (202) 332-0207
2320 - 17th St. NW, Washington, D.C., FAX (202) 332-0207.....(202) 332-6483

A tribute to writer Assotto Saint, who died last year. By Otis Richardson

▼ Youth

African American Womyn's Alliance (South Side-Based).....324-5120
Coalition for Positive Sexuality, 3712 N. Broadway #191, 60613....604-1654
Gateway Foundation (prevention/education; drug-free activities for
L/G/Bi youth), 3047 N. Lincoln, #310, 60657, FAX 248-4337 248-4559
Generation Q, 3711 N. Ashland, 60613, FAX 549-4034.....604-1967
Harriet Tubman Place for sexual minority youth 626-1443
Austin, East and West Garfield, North Lawndale
Horizons Community Services Youth group.....472-6469
Image Plus (Black gay youth outreach), 1525 E. 53rd, #516-5,60615-4530 ..684-3100
Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/South Side.....488-7711
Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians/Gays POBox 11023, 60611.472-3079
Pride Youth Support Program, youth 13-18, meet at Unitarian Church of Evanston
1779 Maple St., Northfield, IL 60093, FAX (708) 441-7027.....(708) 441-9880
PRISM Youth Network drop-in for 14-20 yr olds in Oak Park .(708) 386-5093
Travelers & Immigrants Aid, 327 S. LaSalle, 60604-3471 435-8085

▼ Media Resources

Aware: Positive Health Talk Radio, 180 N. Michigan, #405, 60601.....541-TALK
HIV talk radio; FAX 541-8258; WNUA, WKQX, WLUW, 472-6469 for tapes
BET, Black Entertainment Television..... .....(202) 636-2400
BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles CA 90083.....FAX (310) 410-9250, (310) 410-0808
national magazine for Black gays and lesbians
CHICAGO DEFENDER, 2400 S. Michigan, 60616.....FAX 225-9231, 225-2400
DYKE TV, P.O. Box 55, Prince Street Station, NY, NY 10012-0001.....(212) 343-9335
Cable TV in 18 cities, FAX (212) 343-9337 (Mondays 10pm on Ch. 53 in Chicago)
Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Chicago
P.O. Box 146343, 60614, FAX 338-5482 871-7633
In the Life, Gay and Lesbian TV show on PBS.....1-800-627-ONTV
airs on WTTW-Channel 11 in Chicago (now quarterly)
Lesbigay Radio Chicago, WCBR 92.7 Sundays 8 a.m.-noon
1143 W. Pratt Blvd, #2W, 60626, *on air: (708) 818-9227* 973-3999
OUTLINES, 3059 N. Southport, Chgo, 60657 FAX (312) 871-7609, (312) 871-7610
SBC Magazine/National, 1205 - 4th Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019.(213) 733-5661
This Way Out (G&L radio), PO Box 38327, Los Angeles, CA 90038 (213) 874-0874
Chicago Broadcast: **WHPK Radio 88.5 FM** Wednesdays 5:30-6pm.

COMMUNITY from 21

men and women.

What sets Jeffery Pub apart is that it is perhaps the oldest Black, gay-friendly bar in the city. Without question, it is by far the best known of these small bars, with a national reputation. Since it turned from a white bar into a Black bar with a largely gay and lesbian patronage during the neighborhood's transitional period in the early '60s, Jeffery Pub has tried to integrate gay and straight Blacks within its walls.

"This is where you came to, whether you were straight or gay," said "Ms. De," a longtime employee at the Pub. "It's unique. It's distinct, and," she continues proudly, "it's the only Black gay bar on the South Side." Though Martin's Den, another gay bar on the South Side, closed, the "411 " still survives underneath the temporarily closed Jackson Park El. Jeffery Pub's advantage and key to its stability is the that many of the patrons live in or near South Shore, and that it is part of a still thriving business district intersected by 71st street and the electric Metra commuter line. "We come here to relax and be ourselves," said one patron, who asked not to be named. For Ms. De and others who have been part of Jeffery Pub's history, it is important that employees at South Shore Bank can feel comfortable enough to stop in for an after-work drink and socialize. Or that customers can listen to the blues at the Pub on Monday nights and '70s R&B on Saturdays.

"We have people from all over, who will call for directions and come here," said Ms. De. "We think of this place as a neighborhood bar. Here, we care about each other."

A community center

Jeffery Pub provides a working example of how Black gays and lesbians have interacted within the Black community without the tension or fear that can result from traditional misinformation and stereotypes. But there must be continued progress that is built upon current inroads.

One of the more ambitious plans calls for a community center on the South Side, where the majority of Black gays and lesbians live. Pickens foresees such a center as an integral part of the African-American community. "One of the major problems is the lack of a central location," Pickens said.

"It's needed, and it's a shame it took so long," said Michael T. James, Information and Referral Coordinator for The Kupona Network, a service provider for African-Americans living with HIV or AIDS. He noted that any resistance from the larger Black community would be a small price to pay for the potential benefits. Pickens agreed.

"A community center would be not only a place to meet and strategize," she said, "but symbolize a real integration of gays and lesbians in the larger Black community." Currently, plans for a center are only at the earliest stages of planning and discussion.

Right now Black gays and lesbians continue to discuss issues together without such a gathering place. For Pickens, this is the time Black gays and lesbians should begin to tackle larger concerns as part of the greater gay and lesbian community.

"There has been an unwillingness to engage the larger issues that face gays and lesbians as a whole," she said.

"We need to be 'at the table' from the beginning, discussing those policies that affect us. Too often," Pickens pointed out, "Black gays and lesbians are 'asked' only after the groundwork has been laid by white gays and lesbians."

Another concern facing Black gay and lesbian cooperation is sexism. Pickens said she learned greatly from the interaction between Black gay and lesbian groups before the Billiken Parade in 1993.

"We're not always going to see eye-to-eye," she said, noting that the men often approached problems differently than many of the women. However, the lesson learned applies to any future coalition. "If we know we've got work to do, and we can only do it together, it can be done."

In order to achieve these kinds of effective interactions, businesses and groups must be formed from mutually beneficial goals. The reason is in large measure financial feasibility.

"A lot of the things we have accomplished," Ogletree said, "were done with our own personal finances. It would be wonderful to have a community center, a think tank, to have a political activist arm, and to have these things spring from our common interests." But the conditions for such fertile activity—money and commitment—are a ways from being readily available in large supply.

To overcome this hurdle, monies must be pooled together. Many of the successes in recent years—the march in the Bud Billiken Day Parade is just one—are the result of such pooled money and talent.

December '94 saw a new phase of cooperation, combining resources and skills from the established Black business base in Chicago and Black gay organizations. Desiree Sanders is owner of the Afrocentric Bookstore, located in Downtown Chicago. A nationally recognized figure in the growing African-American book market, she co-sponsored a book-signing for James Hardy's debut novel, *Bad Boy Blues*. The book has drawn praise for its treatment of openly Black and gay subject matter, and can be found in her store.

"We planned to bring James to Chicago, and asked several groups if they would help us with the event," Sanders said. Held at The Generator, Sanders said the dance club was chosen because of its central location and its notoriety. "We needed a place people would really come to, and I knew The Generator was a popular place for Black gays."

Sanders emphasized the collaborative effort was one she would like to repeat. "The cooperation was just excellent, and if other works come out and have African-American themes, I would like to do this again."

Cooperation and the willingness to put money, time and effort toward shared resources and services: these are the tools for effective community building not only between Black gays and lesbians, but also within the larger communities in which Black gays and lesbians belong.

Ogletree is optimistic. "The work that was done in '94 is a result of the planning we did in '93. Let's see what different kinds of wins we'll have in '95."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Silent No More: Cammermeyer Story on NBC

by Brent Hartinger

In 1989, Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer admitted during a top secret security clearance that she is a lesbian. When the military argued that this violated their ban against lesbians and gays serving in the military, this award-winning nurse and decorated Vietnam veteran spent three years arguing that her sexual orientation was irrelevant to her job performance; Cammermeyer was discharged anyway, becoming in 1992 the highest ranking officer ever to be dismissed due to sexual orientation.

On Monday, Feb. 6, Cammermeyer gets another chance to argue her case, but this time she's arguing it to the American people. And this time, she has Hollywood big-wigs Glenn Close and Barbra Streisand on her side. The event is *Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story*, a TV movie about Cammermeyer's life to air on NBC, co-executive produced by Streisand and starring Close as the Colonel.

At first, Cammermeyer was very resistant to the idea of a movie being made about her life. "I still consider myself rather a private person," she says, adding that she "saw no redeeming value in making this ... movie." But after being inundated with calls from other producers, one day she got a call from someone representing Barbra Streisand.

"I recognized the name," Cammermeyer says with a laugh. "The least I could do would be to listen to what she had to say."

LEFT: Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer (left) and Glenn Close on the set of *Serving in Silence*, airing Feb. 6 on NBC. The terrific TV movie looks at the military's attempt to kick out nurse Cammermeyer after 23 years of service to her country. RIGHT: Close has the military maneuvers down quite well.

BARBRA STREISAND talks about her CAMMERMEYER MOVIE. See page 34

Close (left) gives Judy Davis an intimate kiss in *Serving in Silence*, Photo: Tracy Baim

In fact, Streisand and the film's four other executive producers were able to convince Cammermeyer of the importance of filming her exceptional story—especially for television.

"I think that this is the kind of story that actually belongs on television," says Glenn Close, also an executive producer, "because I personally want it to reach as many people as possible. I hope it will get people talking [and] change opinions. I hope it will be very controversial."

Close is already getting her wish. Unlike all other television movies about lesbians and gays to date, this movie goes into detail about an actual love story between two people of the same sex—and even contains a lesbian kiss. At least one conservative group has already lobbied NBC to cut the kiss-scene.

"I think the movie would be dishonest without it," Close says of the already-famous kiss. But she adds that she's frustrated with all the media attention the kiss is receiving, "because it's basically not what the movie is about."

Hollywood insiders have long predicted the movie would be controversial. In fact, Craig Zadan, one of the film's two openly gay executive producers, says that many agents warned him against buying the rights to the story. "They said no network will buy it, nobody will make it, and nobody will broadcast it," he says.

Reality turned out to be exactly the opposite. When NBC learned early on that Streisand was involved with the project, they jumped at the opportunity—literally begging—to air the finished product.

"[Their] guidelines were, please make it great," Zadan says. "Please, do something of very high quality." Since then, the network has been consistently supportive, asking for no

Turn to page 34

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, Feb. 11

BUSINESS FORUM

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse invites you to participate in a moderated discussion concerning our relationship(s) as consumers and participants with the businesses and institutions in our community.

Saturday, Feb. 18

THE LITERARY EXCHANGE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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Wed., Feb, 1, 7:30 p.m.: Cynthia Carosella: *Who's Afraid of the Dark: A Forum of Truth, Support, and Assurance for Those Affected by Rape*
Carosella's book provides first-person accounts of the long-term effects of rape.

Thurs., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.: Regina Barreca: *Perfect Husbands & Other Fairy Tales*
Ms. magazine writes, "Feminist humor maven Regina Barreca takes on marriage with her characteristic wit and wisdom, demystifying the institution's roles and expectations clearly and usefully."

Wed., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.: Ruth Carol: *Alternatives for Women with Endometriosis*
A past president of the Endometriosis Association/Chicago, Carol has talked with hundreds of women who have tried alternative treatments for endometriosis.

Cynthia Carosella

Thurs., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.: Patricia Bell-Scott: *Life Notes: Personal Writing by Contemporary Black Women.* A reading and discussion.

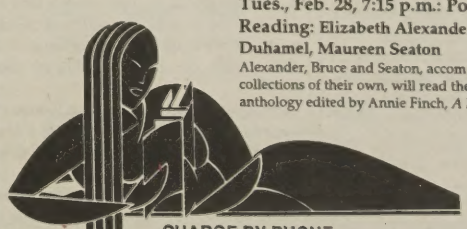
Tues., Feb. 14, 7:15 p.m.: Women's Book Discussion: *Meridian*
Alice Walker's second novel (published in 1976).

Friday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.: Paula DiPerna: *The Discoveries of Mrs. Christopher Columbus: His Wife's Version*
Based on a combination of historical facts and creative invention.

Tues., Feb. 21, Judith Arcana and Martha Roth: *Mother Journeys: Feminists Write About Mothering*
Editor Roth and contributor Arcana read from and discuss *Mother Journeys*, a compelling collection of essays, stories, poems, and artwork investigating with clarity, humor, courage and pain the dual issues of feminism and motherhood.

Patricia Bell-Scott

Tues., Feb. 28, 7:15 p.m.: Poetry Reading: Elizabeth Alexander, Debra Bruce, Denise Duhamel, Maureen Seaton
Alexander, Bruce and Seaton, accomplished poets with published collections of their own, will read their poems from a wonderful new anthology edited by Annie Finch, *A Formal Feeling Comes: Poems in Form by Contemporary Women.* Duhamel will read from her new book, *The Woman with Two Vaginas.*



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SILENT from 33

changes in the final film.

The result may be the best, most engaging television movie about homosexuality ever. "There's a big difference between sentimentality in TV movies and sentiment," Zadan explains. "We wanted the movie to be emotional and powerful and honest, but we didn't want it to be mawkish." Zadan credits writer Alison Cross, who also wrote television's *Roe Vs. Wade*, with getting ~just the right balance.

For Close, it was important to have a high-caliber co-star to play the part of Diane Divelbess, Cammermeyer's lover. She lobbied hard for the terrific Australian actress, two-time Oscar nominee Judy Davis.

""At one point, [Davis] got cold feet," Close says, "because she thought that we wouldn't be allowed to go far enough or show the kind of relationship that was there. I said to her at the time, 'I'm going to be way out there on a limb, and I hope that you'll be there with me.'"

For Close, it was also important to capture the essence of the woman she was playing. "I wanted to wear the uniforms right," she says. "I wanted to salute right." It helped, she says, that Cammermeyer and her children were often on the set during filming.

In a scene in the movie, Cammermeyer's youngest son is beat up when his friends learn that his mother is a lesbian. Since Cammermeyer's son happened to be on the set that day, Close asked him how his mother would really react. "I said to him, 'What would [your mother] really say to [you]?'" Close says. "And he said, 'She'd ask me if I kicked his butt.' That's in the movie."

While Cammermeyer recently hinted she might run for political office, she definitely never set out to be an activist (which may be one of the reasons she makes such a compelling

Turn to page 36

Barbra Speaks on 'Silence'

by Brent Hartinger

There seems to be nothing that Barbra Streisand can't do. With the release of *Yentl* in 1983, she became one of a handful of people (and the first woman) to produce, direct, write, and star in a major motion picture. And when she announced plans for a concert tour early in 1994, the phone lines logged 5 million ticket requests in the first hour alone. Over the course of her career, she's won virtually every entertainment award there is, including two Oscars, eight Grammys, several Emmys, and a Tony.

These days, Streisand has turned her attention to discrimination against lesbians and gays—specifically, the ban on lesbians and gays in the military. NBC's *Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story,* co-executive produced by Streisand and co-produced by her film company, Barwood films, is her first foray into television production.

Streisand knew she wanted to make a film about Cammermeyer's story the first time she read an article about it. "I've always believed in telling the truth," Streisand says, "and I've found throughout my own career, that always got me into trouble. By Grethe's telling the truth, she was caught. That's what is so unjust to me, that the truth should get you into trouble."

According to Streisand, at first Cammermeyer was resistant to the project. "When I first said 'Do you want your life displayed on television?' she said, 'No,'" Streisand recalls.

"Then we talked about it and Grethe was very complimentary in terms of trusting us to tell her story with dignity and honesty."

In fact, Streisand has long been a crusader for lesbian and gay rights. In 1993, she made headlines announcing her support for a boycott of the state of Colorado after voters there passed a sweeping anti-gay initiative. And her

Barbra Streisand

"As a Jew and a woman, I can identify with those who have struggled against other's intolerance," Streisand says. "I am very concerned with this issue of everybody's right to love."

1994 concert tour generated over ten million dollars for charity, much of which went to AIDS and gay-related causes.

"As a Jew and a woman, I can identify with those who have struggled against other's intolerance," she says.

For years now, Streisand has also been laboring on a film version of Larry Kramer's play, *The Normal Heart*—"a love story between two men set against the beginning of the AIDS epidemic," she explains. The film is soon to be in pre-production, with a possible release as early as next Christmas.

"I am very concerned with this issue of everybody's right to love," says Streisand.

On *Serving in Silence,* Streisand was especially delighted to have Glenn Close involved with the project. Close has "dignity, intelligence, presence, integrity," she says. "All the things that Grethe has." (For Close's part, she is equally complimentary of Streisand: "It was thrilling to work with her," she gushes.)

As for the general issue of gays-in-the-military, Streisand, a much-publicized friend of Bill Clinton's, is no fan of the administration's current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, but does think it's an improvement. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has "advanced the cause a bit because the law was so unconstitutional that it has forced cases like Grethe's and Keith Meinhold's ... to come into the news and into the courts and be declared, so far, unconstitutional," she says. She is hopeful the U.S. Supreme Court will come to the same conclusion.

In the meantime, Streisand hopes her films and others like them can change some minds on the subject of homosexuality.

"What I would like to happen is for people to identify with these people in the story. By telling this story, it hopefully will erode some of the stereotypical views about what gays and lesbians are like."

No easy task, but if anyone can do it, rest assured, Streisand can.

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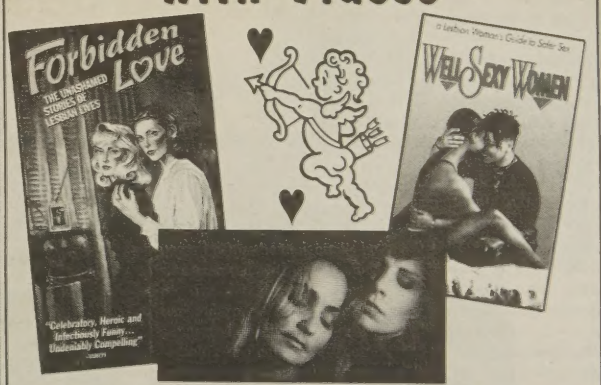
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SILENT from 34

spokesperson for lesbian and gay rights). Indeed, to this day, Cammermeyer, who was reinstated into the military by court order on June 1, 1994, remains a staunch supporter of the institution.

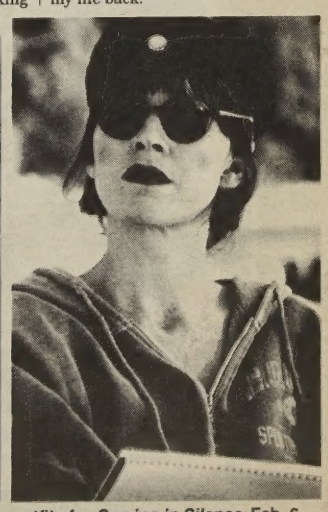
"It's the policy that was wrong," she says. "It's not the military." Regarding the new "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" compromise policy, Cammermeyer says, "Unfortunately, it's Congress that made [that law] and until the law is overturned [by the courts], the military has no option but to continue to pursue and mandate discharges."

Despite Cammermeyer's headline-grabbing story, the producers are quick to point out that many individuals suffer similar fates as a result of simple prejudice. "It's a universal story," says writer Alison Cross.

"The movie's about anyone in America who finds themselves out on the street for no particular reason other than people's prejudice," adds Zadan.

For Cammermeyer, the movie has given her a chance to do some introspection. "When I was thrown out of the military, I tried to find some meaning in why that should have happened," she says. "And perhaps [fighting the military] is what I'm supposed to be doing at this time. So I have sort of decided that I really don't have a right to not try to speak out." Now, she says, she's just looking forward to the airing of the movie Feb. 6.

With the injustice of her experience finally brought before the American people, she says, "perhaps I will get my life back."



▼▼▼▼▼ Close in her various outfits for *Serving in Silence*, Feb. 6 on NBC. At right is Judy Davis, who plays her lover.

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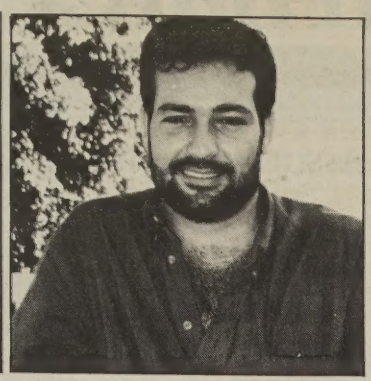
'Strawberry & Chocolate': A Cultural Shake

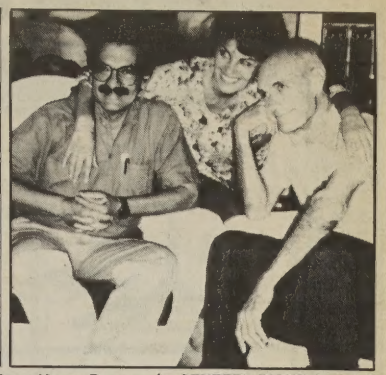
by Bill Strubbe & Karen Wald

It was the scene of mayhem and near-riots; word was out that *Strawberry and Chocolate* had swept the major awards the night before at the Latin American Film Festival—best movie, director, script, actor, and supporting actress. Police were called in to control the thousands of eager Cubans still waiting in line for the evening's final screening, but even then the exuberant crowd shoved through windows amidst a shower of glass and lost shoes. For days afterwards the movie was the talk of Havana, and soon to become the cinematic darling of Latin America

Unprecedented in more ways than one, the Cuban film *Strawberry and Chocolate*, portraying with humor, rage, and tears the growing friendship of a young communist and a gay writer, makes its major debut in Chicago Feb. 10 (after a successful showing at film festivals last year). It is fitting that a motion picture exploring themes of intolerance through the formerly closeted issue of homosexuality in Cuban society should be among the few to permeate the U.S.-imposed 35-year trade embargo. While it's unlikely *Strawberry and Chocolate* will duplicate its smash success in Latin America and Europe, the film gives Americans a rare glimpse of Cuban life, one refreshingly untainted by Cuban or U.S. propaganda.

Besides breaking the U.S. blockade, the movie also shattered several Cuban stereotypes. In the screenplay, written by Senel Paz, who won the prestigious Juan Rulfo Prize for the short story on which the film is based, the defects of a society that hinders diversity and individual expression are scrutinized, a positive homosexual image is presented for the first time, and the bad guy is a communist; not the normal Cuban cinema fare.





LEFT: Vladimir Cruz plays David, a member of the Young Communist League, who encounters Diego (Jorge Perugorría, CENTER), RIGHT, from left: Juan Carlos Tabío, co-director of *Strawberry and Chocolate*, with Mirta Ibarra (Nancy), and director Tomás Gutiérrez Alea. Photos by Bill Strubbe

The film is set in late '70s, which writer Senel Paz describes as "very difficult and dark years in terms of cultural policy where dogmatism predominated...." Exemplifying the narrow mind-set of the time, David (Vladimir Cruz), a naive member of the Young Communist League, encounters Diego (Jorge Perugorría), a well-educated, witty homosexual who is a connoisseur of Cuban culture. The mutual duplicity of Diego's attempted seduction with forbidden novels, Maria Callas, and tea ostensibly spiked with American whiskey, and David's visits as a pretense to spy on Diego on the behalf of his Communist Youth League buddy, Miguel (Francisco Gattorno), eventually gives way to a deepening friendship. Diego runs into government resistance when trying to install an exhibit of a friend's sculptures, and his candid letter seals his fate as an "undesirable element." The closing scene aptly renders Diego's rage and grief as he explains to David why he must choose exile. Their tearful, final hug embodies the immense chasm bridged between them.

At the film's premier in Havana's Karl Marx Theater, a choked hush accompanied that final hug, and then the festival audience erupted into a thunderous standing ovation as the credits rolled by. "We felt it was a sincere film, that the story was moving and told in a graceful way, with humor, so we expected a positive response," recalled Senel, who, had not seen the final edit before the opening. "But the public reaction went way beyond expectations."

The overwhelming response of the select festival audience was but a foreshadow of the public's reaction. "It was really impressive: the long lines, people waiting all day to see a showing at midnight," explained 29-year old Jorge Perugorría, who made his film debut as Diego. Inside the theaters "they reacted with such passion. They went from laughing to crying, or applauded something the character said. I think that the social phenomenon overrode the cinematic one." All the actors and directors reported being constantly approached on the street and thanked for making the film.

"It seemed the reaction reflected a mature understanding, and I think the film shows us that we could have been much freer with ideas and expression than we were," Senel said, in what was the conclusion of many. "That diversity will produce an enrichment of the social debate, not dissidence, social chaos, or rejection of the basic ideals of the Revolution."

Diversity was not always a paramount value in Cuba: re-education labor camps were established in the '60s for hustlers, prostitutes, and homosexuals; socialist realism stifled discordant artistic expression through the '70s; and thousands of gays fled in the Mariel Boat Lift. But official and public attitudes are slowly evolving as evidenced by Fidel Castro's public statements several years ago condemning the repression of homosexuals; the Commission of Sex Education now promotes homosexuality as a healthy option; the casual acceptance of gays as couples at the AIDS sanatorium; government cooperation with several organized visitors groups of openly gay men and women; and though the now deceased gay poet José Lezama Lima, whom Diego in *Strawberry and Chocolate* refers to as "our genius" was censored and jailed in his lifetime, his home in Havana is now open as a museum.

The portrayal of Diego as a rather queeny queen is certain to rankle some queer sensibilities, but Tomás Gutiérrez Alea (Titón), the veteran director of nine feature films, explains, "That was done intentionally. If Diego didn't have obvious effeminate mannerisms, David wouldn't have any reason to be afraid to be seen in public with Diego. It was a dramatic necessity in the script." Co-director, Juan Carlos Tabío, who came on board mid-stream when Titon underwent the surgical knife, added that Diego's use of effeminate gestures was a way of trying to provoke David. As the movie progresses, Diego evolves beyond stereotype into an intelligent, mischievous, and less-than perfect person capable of defending himself and the culture he loves.

"If we had made him restrained and closeted then we'd be asking people to accept him because he seemed like a 'real man.' ... We wanted a gay man with pride, who completely accepts himself as he is," Senel said. "In previous years, the public would simply have been scandalized, furious, if a homosexual had been presented in any way other than to ridicule him. It would never have occurred to anyone for a gay man to star in a film."

As to whether Jorge Perugorría, who is married with two sons, had any qualms that playing a gay man would hinder future casting possibilities, he said, "No, it's totally different from Hollywood. Here there are no movie stars who have to watch their image. There are just actors who interpret roles." Jorge added, "Diego won the hearts of the Cuban people. Even though this is a macho country, they've identified with a

Turn to page 44

Film: Whoopi's *Boys on the Side*

by Steve Warren

Sometimes (e.g., *Philadelphia*), when Hollywood tackles a sensitive issue and does the best it can to inform and entertain the general public, I pat the industry on the back and say, "That's fine. Now take the next step."

Boys on the Side, opening Feb. 3, is an example of one of the *other* times, when the outcome is less successful and I want to kick the industry in the ass and say, "Get it *right* next time."

If you have the choice, read the press kit for *Boys on the Side* instead of seeing the movie. Here's a sample, a quote from the film's director, Herbert Ross: *"Boys on the Side* is a film about the creation, evolution and resolution of a family unit. The conventional family—mother, father and their biological offspring—is no longer the only option for everyone, yet an innate human need to band together in small supportive units remains universally intact. The film reflects a world which is multi-ethnic, a world brimming with variations of race and creed, a world with diverse sexual preferences. It is a world where the need for community is strong enough to overcome the pressures of society."

That sounds like a movie I want to see. The movie I saw is another story—or the same story told with a TV mentality but less respect for the viewer's intelligence.

Three terrific actresses are responsible for what works in *Boys on the Side*—a fair amount, but not nearly enough. Whoopi Goldberg plays Jane, a lesbian. That means even though we're told she's had affairs in the past, she doesn't touch another woman over the year or so the story spans. Ironically a bartender comments, "Seems like gay people are the only ones getting laid anymore." Whoopi moves with a swagger like one tough mama, and throws in whatever subtle touches she can.

Mary-Louise Parker plays Robin, whom Jane calls "the whitest woman on the face of the earth." Her secret is that she has AIDS; or as she puts it after a bout of "AIDS-related pneumonia," "I have HIV ... I've tested positive for the AIDS virus." She has as much of a sex life as Jane, passing up her golden opportunity with a line that should live in infamy: "What's that make you, a big hero—bringing sex to the unfuckable?"

Whoopi Goldberg, Mary-Louise Parker and Drew Barrymore in *Boys*.

The only one who gets any action is Holly (Drew Barrymore), who is pregnant but in a constant state of heat. When she starts seriously dating a cop (Matthew McConaughey) she tells Robin, "I think you're gonna like him," and Robin replies, "I like any man who dates a pregnant woman. I wonder about him, but I like him."

Jane and Robin meet in New York, where —they agree to drive together to California. Jane, a singer, supposedly has a gig waiting; Robin says she's retracing a childhood journey but is actually trying to outrun her disease.

They pick Holly up in Pittsburgh, where she's being beaten by Nick (Billy Wirth), the drug-dealing animal she lives with. The women overpower him and later find out he died, possibly of injuries Holly inflicted. This gives them all something else to worry about. Holly is smarter about others ("I told Jane it was a real self-hating thing to get crushes on straight girls") than about herself ("I'm gonna think long and hard before I take him back," she says after escaping Nick).

The trail ends in Tucson, where Robin has to be hospitalized and the three of them set up housekeeping. They're pretty well established as a family by now, and the unit expands further with the arrival of Robin's mother (Anita Gillette). Even more than the others she's less than a person than a device, bouncing back and forth between serious scenes where she's intelligent and rather liberal, and comic scenes where she's a total idiot who's shocked by everything. She's a perfect metaphor for the whole movie.

"Love doesn't always keep," Robin says at one point, "so you find out what does—if you're lucky." *Boys on the Side* has quite a few nice lines and moments like that, but too much crap in between that's intended to make it accessible to a broader audience. I know documentaries are box office poison, but the people who watch TV talk shows all day shouldn't need their reality quite so sugar-coated.

Boys on the Side isn't the worst movie of '95, but if it isn't one of the year's biggest disappointments I may have to look for another line of work.

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R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe, edging further out of the closet in DETAILS.

Lesbians & Gays up for Grammys

ROLLING STONE readers picked **Melissa Etheridge** as one of the top female singers of 1994. Melissa, meanwhile, is up for three **Grammy Awards** (they actually added back the female rock category), and **Me'Shell NdegeOcello** has four nominations for the March 1 awards show. **Indigo Girls** (folk), **Judy Tenuta** (comedy, for ***Attention Butt Pirates and Lesbetarians,*** recorded live at the C&W Gay Pride Festival in Nashville), **Bruce Springsteen** for "Streets of Philadelphia" and **Elton John** for "Circle of Life" are also up for awards. Melissa and Bruce will face off for best rock song. Melissa was also featured on NBC's *Today* show Jan. 7, and SUN-TIMES writer **Jeffrey Zaslow** profiled her for **USA WEEKEND** Jan. 29, inserted in hundreds of newspapers nationwide.

Singer **Michael Stipe** of **R.E.M.** is tip-toeing further out of the bisexual closet, telling DETAILS (February) that "yeah" he sleeps with people of both sexes. But he also clutches to his privacy, and says that "not only sexuality but a whole lot of things in life are constantly changing. I'm an equal-opportunity letch. And I'm perfectly comfortable with it." R.E.M. perform June 2-3 at the Rosemont Horizon (with **Luscious Jackson,** who have a lesbian singer, opening). ... Singer **Sophie B. Hawkins** is called a "superfreak" in her DETAILS Q&A, but we're not sure why—unless the first question, "I hear you're a big-time lesbian" is an indicator. Hawkins responds: "I wish I could *be* so simple! But I've been involved with so many different kinds of people—a man for eight years, a woman, and then this transgendered person (activist **Kate Bornstein**)—that I have to call myself omnisexual, because I just don't believe in this whole lesbian boring-ass fucking *shit* in New York and L.A. ... I do wish that I could just be a lesbian—I'd have a lot more friends and a lot more support. I'd be right up there with Melissa Etheridge." Melissa may be having fun now, but it's *not* been easy. Hawkins is currently with a woman.

The first opera based on openly gay themes opened at **Houston's Grand Opera** Jan. 22, to mostly positive reviews. ***Harvey Milk,*** loosely based on the life of openly gay San Francisco Supervisor Milk, who who assassinated in 1978, will play in Texas through Feb. 5, then move to New York in the spring and San Francisco in 1996.

According to a report in the Nashville gay newspaper **XENOGENY,** the **Nashville Symphony Orchestra** premiered *Peste Noire,* a work for narrator and orchestra, by openly gay, HIV-positive composer **Lee Gannon,** in January.

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by tracy baim

Front Lines

The **Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation** has announced their annual media awards, to be presented March 12 in Los Angeles and March 16 in New York (how about in Chicago next year?). Recipients include ***Frasier, IKEA, Tales of the City, Go Fish, Friends, NBC Nightly News, Roseanne, My So-Called Life, The Real World III,*** **Doonesbury,** ***Coming Out Under Fire,*** **Melissa Etheridge, The Indigo Girls, Disappear Fear.** L.A. and N.Y. will also present their own additional awards. ... Speaking of L.A., at the recent **Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund/GLAAD** screening of the **Margarethe Cammermeyer** film, there were lots of celebs, including Melissa, **Judith Light, Liza Minnelli, Lea DeLaria, Kevin Bacon** and stars from the NBC movie. Executive producer **Barbara Streisand** was making the rounds, and Cammermeyer was reportedly very patient and kind to everyone (inviting some lesbians back to her hotel for a late-night discussion).

According to reports in the ATLANTA JOURNAL & CONSTITUTION, **Dr. Christina Jeffrey,** who was selected as House Speaker **Newt Gingrich's** hand-picked historian to the House of Reps, commended the Cobb County, Ga., commissioners for their "toughness" in passing a resolution condemning the "gay lifestyle." Her nomination was pulled when it was revealed she also backed a Nazi perspective on the Holocaust. (Newt's e-mail is georgia6@hr.house.gov)

GLAAD/San Francisco reports that **DC Comics,** a major comic book publisher, has completed a four-book mini-series, ***Metropolis S.C.U. (Special Crimes Unit)*** with a lesbian, **Captain Maggie Sawyer,** as the main character. The series shows Sawyer (who previously was in the *Superman* series) in her role as super-mom—career, relationship, and motherhood. Letters to: Jenette Kahn, Pres. and Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics, 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019, (212) 636-5400.

The TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL has reported that two prominent civic leaders in this Kansas city are calling on **Southwestern Bell** to disconnect the phone used by the rabidly anti-gay **Fred Phelps** to fax out material calling people "fags," "sodomites," "whores," and other slurs. They say the phone line at Phelps' Baptist Church is the source of "defaming and harassing" materials.

CHICAGO SHOW NOTES

Michael Feinstein joins **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** for its Musicians' Pension Fund Concert Feb. 10, 435-6666.

The **Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Assoc.** and **Left Bank Culture Club** host ***Gay Cabaret II,*** Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. at the 19th Century Women's Club, 178 N. Forest. Performers include **Marilyn Fox, Robert Klein Engler, Dan Ursini,** and more. Tix $10 at door, $7 in advance; (708) 383-4700.

Upcoming: **Mountain Moving Coffeehouse—Cris Williamson/Tret Fure** April 8, **Faith Nolan** April 15, **Ferron** May 6.

Windy City Performing Arts presents **"An Evening of Broadway,"** Feb. 18 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Each table at the dinner will be hosted by a person responsible for setting and decorating the table in the style of a Broadway show (prizes will be awarded). Entertainment by **Windy City Gay Chorus, UNISON** and **Windy City Slickers.** Call 404-9242. WCPA, meanwhile, has accepted an invitation from **Highland Park high School** to appear at this year's Focus on the Arts, three days where students, faculty, parents and community members are introduced to a variety of art forms. WCGC and UNISON are the first openly gay participants to be invited. Other participants include: **Itzak Perlman, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Lyric Opera,** and **Muntu Dance Theatre.** WCPA performs April 25, 1:30 p.m. at Highland Park High School, 433 Vine Ave., Highland Park.

AWARE: Positive Health Talk Radio has a new timeslot on WNUA, Sundays 7:30-8 a.m. Also new is co-host **Alice Berry,** 29, an African-American Columbia College professor, joining **Sondra Roberts** and **Chris DeChant**.

Gay dancer/choreographer **Randy Duncan** received a lot of media attention as the **Joffrey Ballet** came to Chicago last month (his "Tri-Fling" had its Chicago premiere). Duncan, a Chicago native, was former head of the **Joseph Holmes Dance Company,** taking over after Holmes died of complications from AIDS (a fact originally kept secret by Holmes' family).

Don't Blame It On Barbie

A new gay "indicator" study showing that if young boys play with dolls, it's highly likely they will be gay when they grow up (no, you can't *make* them gay by giving them a Barbie, it just may be gay boys *prefer* Barbie). "Most extremely feminine boys will become gay men, and most gay men were at least somewhat feminine in childhood," according to the study by J. Michael Bailey of Northwestern U. and Kenneth Zucker of Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. In the January issue of **DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY,** they review published studies comparing the childhood memories of gay and straight men and women. Lesbians remember being somewhat more "masculine" than did hetero women, though the difference was smaller than for men.

MEDIA: Between the Lines

Boston-based conservative radio talk-show host **David Brudnoy** has come out as a gay man who has AIDS, and most of his listeners have been supportive. Of course, his show takes a more intellectual approach to politics, focusing more on Libertarian rather than right-wing agendas (but still some are angered that he didn't "come out" sooner as a way to educate listeners). Brudnoy collapsed during a broadcast in October, suffering from pneumonia. The attack prompted him to discuss his illness and sexual orientation on air for the 1st time. He's profiled in the Jan. 8 NEW YORK TIMES and in the Feb. 6 PEOPLE.

Gay, HIV+ performance artist **Ron Athey** is profiled in the February DETAILS, and he discusses being at the center of the NEA-funding controversy.

The February **VANITY FAIR** has lots of gay stuff, including an article on **gay murders in Texas.** Pulitzer-Prize winning author **H.G. Bissinger** investigates the brutal murders. He says the roaming gangs of teenage boys mirror the Ku Klux Klan killings of Blacks, specifically in terms of society and church-sanctioned hatred and violence. **Also in VF:** a profile of lesbian sex goddess **Susie Bright,** a look at the strange self-loving world of author **Jeanette Winterson** (*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*), and a profile of **Brad Pitt.** It's quite interesting that the mainstream media just love to quote us queers as lusting after the opposite sex (remember the **David Geffen** quotes about women?). Well, a quote by dyke singer **Melissa Etheridge** (a friend of Pitt's) in VF has been re-quoted often: "Brad's effect is far-reaching. One night a few of us, shall we say, lesbians were in the hot tub watching the guys play basketball in the pool. We were staring at Brad, and we all agreed he could change a woman's mind." Melissa, let's hope, was kidding—otherwise, she's playing into all those straight male fantasies of "changing a woman's mind." Sure, some folks have a fluid sexuality, but that doesn't mean they can "change" their mind.

Is **Jodie Foster** trying to "straighten" her image to better her chances for an Oscar? The tabloids are reporting on rumored affairs with men.

Coverage of the **America³** women's team trying to win the **America's Cup** has included the bigotry of macho male competitors, including **Dennis Connor** (who lost to the women in the initial race of the America's Cup trials Jan. 13). Last August, Connor called the crew "a bunch of lesbians," so one team member tossed a drink on him. Some women take the comments in stride, wishing to prove themselves in the race, while others try to defend themselves by noting that most of the crew are married or have boyfriends. So what if they *were* all dykes?

MEDIA: Gay **VILLAGE VOICE** columnist **Michael Musto** will take his sarcastic humor to a wider audience—to **SPIN** (which has terrific coverage of AIDS issues). ... The Jan. 12 NEW YORK TIMES had a profile of the more-contented activist **Larry Kramer,** as he settles into love and a more peaceful activism. Don't bet that he won't be back with a new inspiration soon. ... Gay **U.S. Rep. Barney Frank** is profiled in the Jan. 6 NY TIMES as emerging as a "witty debater" against the conservative political tide in D.C. ... **PLAYBOY**'s International Sex Survey in February will show the nature of differences in sexual behaviors around the world—including what impact the AIDS epidemic has had on global sex. PLAYBOY reports that most men are concerned about contracting sexually transmitted diseases. Men worried about STDs most in: Brazil (90%), 81% in France, 78% in Greece, 75% in the U.S., and 70% in Japan. Unlike a recent U. of Chicago survey of U.S. sexual behavior, which reported that 33% of American men said they had had more than 11 sexual partners, the PLAYBOY survey found that 57% of U.S. men said they had had 11 sexual partners. The survey also found Japanese men were the most likely to use condoms during sex.

THE NY TIMES reports that a six-team **Women's Professional Fastpitch softball league** is set to start playing in June, with a series of 15 or so exhibition games, some to air on ESPN2, the sports channel. The league will start in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and other states where the women's professional baseball league flourished during WWII. By '96, there may be a full league.

Opposite poles: Gay talk show host David Brudnoy in PEOPLE (LEFT) and gay performance artist Ron Athey in DETAILS.

THE POSITIVE PLANET, "The Global HIV Dating Magazine and HIV Treatment Catalogue," is a new mag. Write: THE POSITIVE PLANET, 323 Broadway Ave. East, #1205, Seattle WA 98102, or call (206) 233-7998 (fax: 206-329-6091) or send email to hivdates@cyberquest.com

Film Flair

Boys on the Side opens Feb. 3, with **Whoopi Goldberg** as a lesbian club singer recently dumped by her girlfriend (**Mary-Louise Parker** plays a woman with AIDS). Whoopie told *Entertainment Tonight* she didn't shy from playing a dyke in film: "I didn't want to be a caricature of what people think gay women are. I've seen stereotypes, and I don't like them." What sounds even more terrific is the soundtrack, with almost all women—**Indigo Girls** (who are also in the movie), **Melissa Etheridge, Bonnie Raitt, Annie Lennox, Chrissie Hynde, Sheryl Crow** & more! ... ***Strawberry and Chocolate,*** about a Cuban gay man who falls for a non-gay man who is also his political opposite, opens Feb. 10 [see entertainment section for reviews]. ... ***A Man of No Importance,*** a modern tribute to **Oscar Wilde**, opens early this month. It's based in 1960s Dublin, where a male bus conductor falls for the handsome bus driver.

John Singleton's new ***Higher Learning*** is a terrific and powerful film about racial unrest on campus —and there's even a (sort of) lesbian sex scene with **Jennifer Connelly** and **Kristy Swanson**.

Whoopi in *Boys on the Side.*

The Brady Bunch is due soon, and while it's been toned down, **RuPaul** still has a starring role as Jan's guidance counselor. There are reportedly other interesting characters: Marcia's best friend is a lesbian and the Brady's have gay neighbors. RuPaul, meanwhile, is set to guest-star in Feb. on the **ABC** sitcom ***Sister/ Sister,*** as Marjy, owner of a women's dress shop.

Films opening soon include ***Outbreak,*** about scientists trying to prevent the spread of a deadly virus (March); ***To Die For,*** by gay director **Gus Van Sant,** about a TV reporter's quest for power (April 21); ***The Cure*** about two outsiders, one a youngster with AIDS (**Joseph Mazzello**), who seek to find a cure for him (April 21); and ***To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar,*** with **Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes** and **John Leguizamo** in drag (May).

Leguizamo's ***House of Buggin'*** on Fox TV Sunday nights is turning into quite the drag show itself, with John often playing effeminate and female characters. ... Gay filmmaker **Isaac Julien's *The Darker Side of Black,*** has opened in NY, but no word yet on a trip here. It looks at issues raised by singer **Buju Banton's** "Boom Bye Bye," which called for shooting gays.

Bar Girls, a romantic comedy about contemporary lesbians, has been getting great reviews at film festivals, and is set to open April 7.

The **19th San Fran L&G Film Fest,** June 9-18, has announced that ***Frisk,*** **Todd Verow's** film based on gay writer **Dennis Cooper's** story of sex, sadism and insanity, will premiere at the fest.

Ellen DeGeneres will get $2.2 million to star in her first film, *Mr. Wrong*, about a seemingly perfect husband. ... **Uma Thurman** will play **Marlene Dietrich** in a film based on a book by the actor's daughter, **Maria Rivas.**

VIDEO: ***Paris France*** is a new video by A-PIX Entertainment, about a sexually obsessed writer (**Peter Outerbridge**), who can't get enough from either men or women. It's a strange film, but offers some clever dialogue (but is way overpriced at $94.95). ... ***Shooting Stars*** is a documentary made in P-Town about living with AIDS, focusing on 8 men in group therapy.

QUEER FILMS AT SUNDANCE

The last film of gay director **Marlon Riggs, *Black is ... Black Ain't,*** was among movies shown at the **Sundance Film Festival** in January, along with ***A Litany for Survival: The Life and Works of Audre Lorde***, a profile of the late African-American lesbian writer. Riggs' film won the documentary award given by filmmakers. The audience award for Best Documentary was given to two films, ***Ballot Measure 9,*** by **Heather MacDonald,** about the 1992 anti-gay referendum fight in Oregon; and ***Unzipped,*** about designer **Isaac Mizrahi.** ***Priest,*** a drama about a gay priest, was also shown, as was ***Eclipse,*** about a variety of characters, diverse in sexual orientation and other factors. **Paul Warner's** debut film, ***Fall Time,*** was described as a homoerotic film with very strange elements. Let's hope these gay films make their way to Chicago, or at least to cable. **Robert Redford,** founder of Sundance, has just signed a deal with **Showtime Networks** to become part of a new independent film network.

STAGE LEFT

In honor of award-winning gay playwright **Scott McPherson** (*Marvin's Room*), who died of AIDS complications in 1992, **Goodman** and **Victory Gardens** theatres jointly established the Scott McPherson Award to promote the creation of new works. The first such award, for $5,000, went to playwright **Dominic A. Taylor** (*But I Get Benefits*) in mid-January.

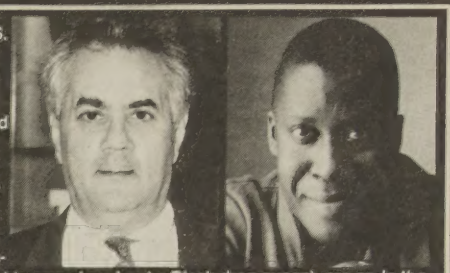
Chicago's **Paula Killen** returns to **La Ma-ma Cabaret** for the New York premiere of her ***The State I'm In: A Travelogue,*** Feb. 23-March 4; (212) 475-7710. Paula says a Big Goddess Pow Wow is set for L.A., probably in April. Former Chicagoans **Marcia Wilkie** and **Pat Bechdolt** are working on the project. Speaking of Marcia, didn't we see her being interviewed on ***Hard Copy,*** in line for tix for **Brett Butler's** TV show, ***Grace Under Fire***? She's quoted saying she likes Butler because she's a woman of the '90s and a strong image.

Tubular

Dr. Betty Shabazz, widow of slain civil-rights leader **Malcolm X**, gives a rare interview—in the special Black History Month episode of the gay TV show ***In The Life,*** set to air Tuesday, Feb. 7, 11 p.m., on **WTTW-Channel 11** in Chicago. Also interviewed are **U.S. Rep. Barney Frank,** filmmaker **Isaac Julien** (with excerpts of his new film ***The Darker Side of Black***), publisher/activist **Barbara Smith, Margaret Cammermeyer,** and *much* more. Stage director **Tazwell Thompson** is also on, discussing his NY play about a Black drag queen, ***Holiday Heart.***

Now that ***My So-Called Life*** (with that great gay teen character) has been cancelled by **ABC,** efforts are stepping up to pressure the network to bring the show back next season. Teen actor **Claire Danes** won a best actress award from the Golden Globes in January. Contact Operation 'Life' Support, P.O. Box 641200, San Francisco, CA 94164-1200, (415) 292-5809. Also write: **Ted Harbert, President, ABC Entertainment, 2040 Ave. of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067, FAX (310) 557-7160.** The TRIBUNE Kidnews section profiled gay actor **Wilson Cruz** Jan. 24—a great role model for kids. One of his teachers agonized throughout the Jan. 5 episode about how to help the

Great voyagers ... or the same old straight worlds? Starship captain Kate Mulgrew tells TV GUIDE she isn't a feminist (and sure, you would have gotten Capt. Kirk's role 30 years ago if it weren't for a movement about equality). No, Kate, it's not about *more* rights, just equal rights (even actor Demi Moore, ROLLING STONE cover-girl, says she's a feminist).



Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (left) and gay stage director Tazwell Thompson (discussing his new play about a Black drag queen), are on *In the Life*, airing on WTTW-Channel 11 (PBS) Feb. 7 in Chicago.

young man—being gay himself, the teacher fears what could happen if he let Ricky stay with him.

There was a lot of protest about the planned lesbian kiss between **Glenn Close** and **Judy Davis** in NBC's Feb. 6 ***Serving in Silence: The Grethe Cammermeyer Story.*** Produced by **Barbra Streisand,** the movie is being targeted by the **Family Defense Council.** Write: **NBC, Entertainment President Warren Littlefield, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91523, FAX (818) 840-4245, phone 840-4444.** In Chicago, you can see *Silence* with a crowd at **Paris Dance,** with special guest **Miriam Ben-Shalom,** who also fought to stay in the military. The event, starting at 7 p.m., benefits **GLAAD/Chicago** and Ben-Shalom, and is hosted by Paris and **Lesbigay Radio.**

ABC's ***Prime Time Live*** Jan. 25 reported on the **murders of gay men in Texas,** based on the new VANITY FAIR article pointing out the "sport" of gay bashing in that state.

The Jan. 3 episode of ***NYPD Blue*** matter-of-factly dealt with the murder of a gay bar owner. There were some stereotypes, but this show thrives on stereotypes. It even turns out a straight man hired the hit man. ... Wild comic **John Leguizamo's *House of Buggin'*** premiered on Fox TV Jan. 8. He is an equal opportunity offender, playing on all sorts of stereotypes. Leguizamo also seems obsessed with cross-dressing—he does *such* a good job at it, too.

Will ***Star Trek: Voyager*** (on **United Paramount Network , Channel 50** in Chicago) truly go where no one has gone before? GLAAD notes that *Star Trek* creator **Gene Roddenberry,** before he died, promised that lesbian, gay and bi characters would be a routine part of *Trek*. "In a fantastic universe populated by everyone from Borg to Klingons, here are no queers to be found," GLAAD stated. Write: **Rick Berman, Michael Pillar, Jeri Taylor, Star Trek: Voyager, Paramount, 5555 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038; (213) 956-5951.**

Funny is in the ear of the beholder, but the gay jokes on the new ***Cybill*** show are not funny to GLAAD. "The jokes aren't overtly nasty, but they're not necessarily nice, either." **Cybill Shepherd** probably could be educated, given she has a lesbian sibling and marched for gay rights in 1993 in D.C. Write Courtney Conte, Exec. Prod., *Cybill*, 4024 Redford Ave., Bldg 1, Studio City, CA 91604.

The new **Warner Brothers (Channel 9)** network started in January, including ***Muscle*** Wednesdays. This dippy show attempts to be a *Soap* for the 1990s, and includes a lesbian news anchor played by **Amy Pietz**.

Gay actor **Dan Butler** (*Frasier*) recently had a fun guest-spot on **Fox-TV's *The X-Files.***

It's sweeps month, so no doubt gay topics will be on the forefront on talk shows—but even without the ratings push, lots of gay programs have been on, and many are even more exploitive. ***Donahue*** had a good show about Blacks and gays, but ***Jerry Springer*** did damaging work on gay and trans teens with "My Boyfriend Turned Out to Be a Girl."

Now starting its fourth year, ***Inside/Outside the Beltway*** (*IOB*), homegrown in Fairfax, Virginia, is set to begin airing in 12 major U.S. media markets, making it the only nationally viewed gay soap opera and one of very few nationally distributed gay programs. In addition to Washington and New York City cable access on which the program has broadcast in past seasons, *IOB* will soon be available to viewers in Boston, Buffalo, Miami, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Fran and Anchorage, Alaska. The show weaves together ten major characters from various walks of life, both gay and straight. Call (703) 569-0608.

DYKE AND DISH

DYKE TV is on **Channel 19, Chicago Access Cable, Mondays at 10 p.m.** Call (312) 951-6868 or (800) 310-DYKE for info on this New York-based program which is seeking local volunteers.

The **Deep Dish TV Network,** Thursdays at 10 p.m., offers some great alternative shows, including gay projects. It's on **Chicago Access Network.**

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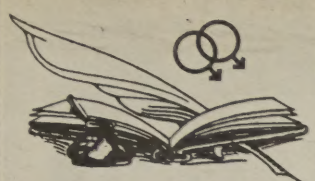


Along the Spine

Literary Update by Dominic Hamilton-Little

LEFT: From *Safer Sexy*, a terrific new hands-on book. RIGHT: Raymond Burr, by Michael Willhoite in *Members of the Tribe: Caricatures of Gay Men and Lesbians.*

The God In Flight by **Laura Argiri** is a remarkable re-invention of the Victorian novel, and is utterly gripping. Argiri's turn of phrase is beautiful, intensely evocative, and strangely, powerfully enthralling. This is one of those books that I loathed having to get back to daily life from ... "I don't want to work, can't you see I'm reading?!" The sensual and erotic prose brings to life a touching and deeply felt story of two lovers trapped by the confines of their time and environment. One is a young man with a disturbing past, and the other is a dignified yet reserved professor. Their dangerous and tumultuous affair breaks all boundaries and conventions, for they are two men living at Yale University in the 19th century. Argiri's use of the language is a glorious repast, that only sweetens an intense and exciting story that rarely slows down. As other reviewers have noted, there is a wonderful resonance in this world Argiri has so carefully crafted akin to those heavenly spheres created by Mary Renault, and *The God In Flight* is truly a sublime change from so much of the pedestrian fare that all too much gay fiction has become. 'Beautiful' is an over-used word that has almost lost its meaning, but for the moment it is the adjective that best describes this book. *The God In Flight* is beautiful.

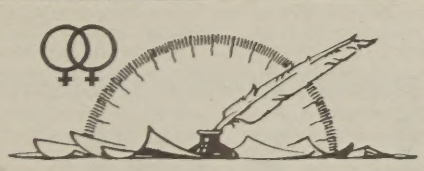
A light and charming book, that has a surprisingly dark side, is ***The Fruit Cocktail Diaries*** by **Brian Carmody** and **Gretchen Hayduk.** The seemingly innocuous tale is the intertwined stories of two very contemporary denizens of downtown Manhattan. Alternating entries from two journals found at a flea market in New York's East Village mesh to create a novel of New York in the '90s. Through the anonymous shopper who buys and reads the two journals, we get a voyeuristic look at two absolute strangers—soul-mates whose separate worlds bump into each other, yet they never meet, or do they? He is a disillusioned, gay party boy who has waited on too many tables, taken too many drugs and had too much anonymous sex. She is straight and sweetly straight-laced—an executive who drop-outs of corporate life to walk on the wild side and figure out what she really wants. *The Fruit Cocktail Diaries* captures urban loneliness like a Pet Shop Boys song, and skillfully evokes modern East Village life with harsh, bright strokes. The dry self-absorption and bittersweet dreams of the diarists, and their avoidance of the blatant sentimentality they crave, lends unexpected weight and poignancy to *The Fruit Cocktail Diaries*. This book is a must for any Generation X slacker, and those who know and love us.

From the supposedly uptight English, comes ***Safer Sexy: The Guide to Gay Sex Safely*** by **Peter Tatchell,** with photographs by **Robert Taylor.** This is an amazing and stunning photographic essay on how to enjoy and practice safer sex in all its many forms. Nothing is avoided or discussed discreetly. Cards on the table and HOW! I defy any gay male to read this book for more than five minutes without consummating some or all of the acts depicted so lusciously, and failing that, rushing off to masturbate. *Safer Sexy* inspires a desperate urge to find a man and have a fucking good time, but safely of course! Chapters include "Pride and Passion," "Sexy Without Risk," "Diversity And Spice," "Sex Problems and Solutions," "Cruising Safely," "Love And Relationships," and "Looking After Yourself." All of the advice is intelligent and makes perfect common sense. No censure or judgement is delivered in this enticing, exciting, and informative book, except for the permanent injunction to love yourself and your lovers enough to take care of yourself and protect each other. And on every page is yet another of Taylor's fabulous photographs of men *in flagrante delicto*, and most refreshing of all, though each and every model is a stunning morsel of manhood, none of them look like buffed porno stars only another buffed porno star might meet. The advice is real and so are the boys. No reference book was ever this much fun, and few I know of contain so much practical, hands-on advice on how to live life today, and tomorrow.

Willhoite's Hollywood: Caricatures by Michael Willhoite will be of interest to fans of the cartoonist, and lovers of Hollywood trivia. In actuality, the best aspect of this book are the brief biographical blurbs on the stars depicted written by the artist himself. As a caricaturist Willhoite is no Hirschfeld, indeed he does not appear to have found a style of his own, and frequently if the drawings aren't blatantly derivative it is impossible to recognize who he has drawn—Sir John Gielgud looks more like a cross between Sir Ralph Richardson and W.C. Fields.

The press release reads like this: *From St. Martin's Press come the first two titles to be published under its new imprint, A Stonewall Inn Book—a line of gift books targeted at the gay and lesbian market. Just in time for St. Valentine's Day*—'cause surely we also want to participate in yet another heterosexual consumer extravaganza—*come* ***The Name of Love: Classic Gay Love Poems,*** edited by **Michael Lassell,** and ***The Key To Everything: Classic Lesbian Love Poems,*** edited by **Gerry Gomez Pearlberg.** Okay. So if you have never read any poetry, and have no idea where to begin in your search for some poets you might enjoy, take a look at these books. Color me suspicious of straight companies deliberately courting gay and lesbian dollars, and wary of anthologies put together by people who don't share my tastes, but frankly if you know and like poetry these books are about as satisfying as a candy kiss. And the whole notion of splitting poetry down the lines of gender and sexual orientation is really ridiculous and annoys me exceedingly ... how much further can we limit ourselves? What is there to prevent a man from responding to Emily Dickinson, or a woman from being moved by Shakespeare? Caveat emptor!

My list entitled 'Embarrassing Neglected Works In My Reading List' would shock many, and I must confess that I have only recently discovered the delights of **James Baldwin.** A dear friend recommended ***Another Country,*** and I feel as though a whole new world, that has always been right next to me, has suddenly been revealed. *Another Country* tells the stories of Rufus and Leona, of Vivaldo and Ida, of Eric and Yves, of Cass and Richard ... artists living on the bohemian fringe, desperately looking for love and validation and frequently unable to give it to themselves, stifled as they are by their own insecurities and prejudices. Baldwin has an uncanny eye that sees right into the heart and soul, and a ruthless pen that paints a vivid, brilliant picture in terrifying detail. Never glossing over a damn thing, he describes a life that is gloriously, horribly real—I found myself turning the pages not necessarily because I was enjoying the scenarios depicted but because I knew them to be so true. His assessment of many of the dilemmas in growing up gay is the closest portrait I have ever found of childhood as I knew it, and his characters leap off the page and into one's mind with startling vigor. Though I am embarrassed at my tardiness in discovering Baldwin, and in particular the power and brilliance of *Another Country*, I am merely glad that Reg gave me such a wonderful present ... and, that there are so many more books by James Baldwin to disappear into.



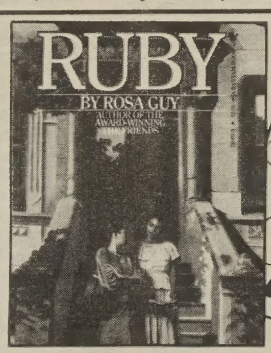
Lesbian Books

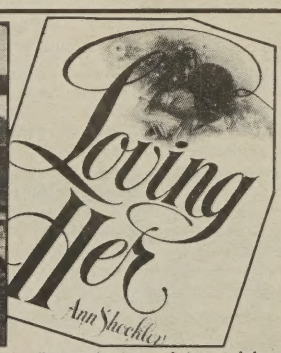
Views, News and Reviews by Marie Kuda

While this is principally a column about lesbians as the subject in fiction and non-fiction books, it is a given that lesbians and bisexual women write books in which lesbians are not featured, and that other folks write books of general interest which are also of value to lesbian readers. An example of the former would be the plays of Lorraine Hansberry. In the latter case, prime examples would be *Strange Justice* and *Feeding on Dreams.*

Strange Justice: The Selling of Clarence Thomas by **Jane Mayer** and **Jill Abramson** (Houghton Mifflin, $24.95), takes us behind the scenes during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings of 1991 on the confirmation of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court. The authors explore the old boy network on both sides of the Senate aisle that kept Angela Wright and others from furnishing what would have been corroborating testimony to Anita Hill's allegations of sexual harassment by Thomas. Even Illinois Sen. Paul Simon has said in retrospect if all testimony had been allowed to be heard, Thomas would not have been confirmed to the high court.

Feeding on Dreams: Why America's Diet Industry Doesn't Work—and What will Work for You, by **Diane Epstein** and **Kathleen Thompson** (MacMillan, $20), gives us an insider's hard look at an industry that is neither benign nor benevolent as it preys on self-image insecurities. Co-author Thompson is a Chicago renaissance woman, playwright, entrepreneur, and author of the recently re-issued pioneering book, *Against Rape: A Survival Manual for Women—How to Avoid Entrapment and How to Cope with Rape Physically and Emotionally.* Thompson and Ra Medea originally published this work in 1974 with Farrar, Strauss—that same year they were both presenters at the first Lesbian Writers Conference held here in Chicago. Thompson believes not only in identifying problems, but giving women the tools they need to empower themselves towards solutions. Medea was one of the founders of Chicago's Chimera, a self-defense training program for women.





Ann Allen Shockley's *Loving Her,* the first mainstream inter-racial lesbian romance, and Rosa Guy's *Ruby,* a first for teen love—between a girl in Harlem and a girl in the West Indies.

Black History Month

Twenty years ago there was barely a trace of writings by Black women-loving women. Today, you can't be considered a literate lesbian unless you know the poetry of **Pat Parker,** the short fiction of **Becky Birtha** and **Julie Blackwomon,** the criticism and theory of **Michelle Cliff** and **Barbara Smith. Audre Lorde** has become an icon; everyone knows playwright **Lorraine Hansberry** was bisexual, or as she put it, a married lesbian, and **J.R. Roberts** (pseudonym of ex-Chicagoan **Barbara Henry**) has traced fiction back to the mid-19th Century in her ***Black Lesbians: a bibliography.***

Generally, reflections in mainstream literature have been at a much slower pace. In the 1970s, **Ann Allen Shockley's *Loving Her*** gave us the first mainstream inter-racial lesbian romance, and **Rosa Guy's** teen-aged ***Ruby*** from the West Indies fell in love with Daphne in Harlem in 1974. Celie and Shug, according to **Alice Walker,** were not lesbians in ***The Color Purple.*** They certainly weren't in the Hollywood version; but, even Hollywood biographies of known gays lose their sexual orientation on the cutting room floor. Didn't hear anything about **Libby Coleman** in **Josephine Baker's** bio—how about **Bessie Smith?** The lesbian lovers in **Oprah Winfrey's** televersion of ***The Women of Brewster Place*** had to be punished as their white sisters were in the 1950's novels.

Current literature is flourishing. **Jewelle Gomez's** lesbian vampire of ***The Gilda Stories,*** **April Sinclaire's** Stevie in ***Coffee will Make You Black*** (and its hopefully lesbian sequel), the Virginia Kelly mysteries of **Nikki Baker,** and the more captivat-

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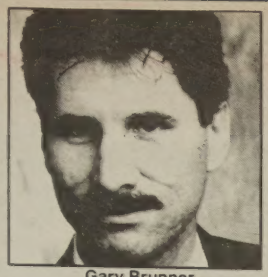
PASSAGES

LARRY SLOAN, 35, a theater director and AIDS activist, died Jan. 19 from AIDS complications. An award-winning artistic director for Chicago's Remains Theatre, he worked as associate director at New York's Lincoln Center from 1989-90. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1981, and worked at the Goodman Theater for five years, eventually becoming associate director, before moving to Remains. At the Jeff Awards in November, he was awarded a special citation for his work with Season of Concern, a funding project of the Actor's Equity Association and the League of Chicago Theatres that raises money to care for people with AIDS. He was credited with raising more than $500,000. He is survived by his parents and brother. Donations: Season of Concern.

GARY BRUNNER, 39, a Chicago interior architect, died Jan. 18 from AIDS complications. As director of design for Swanke Hayden Connell, he won the Society of American Registered Architects Award in 1991 for the WMAQ radio news studios in the NBC tower. He last worked for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. A native of Springfield, he graduated from the University of Illinois in 1978. His works was published in INTERIORS and INTERIOR DESIGN. He is survived by his partner, Roger Grannan, his parents and four sisters. Contributions can be made to Friends of the Hospice, Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

KEITH MCDANIEL, 38, a former soloist with the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, died Jan. 2 from AIDS complications. A native of Chicago, he left his position as soloist at Ailey for Broadway in 1985. He had roles in the



Gary Brunner

movies *Great Balls of Fire* and *The Lady Killers*, and worked with Paula Abdul and others in videos. He is survived by his companion, Matt Tapscott.

FRANK SABATINO, 46, a former editor at HOSPITALS AND HEALTH NETWORKS, died Jan. 7 from AIDS complications in his North Side home. He was vice president of the American Hospital Association. He is survived by his companion, Vic Reiling.

JOSEPH ZENDELL, 45, executive director of the Evanston Arts Council and board president of The HIV Coalition, died Jan. 15 from AIDS complications. Since 1981, he headed the Noyes Cultural Arts Center in Evanston and managed the city's Ethnic Arts Festival. Beginning in 1992, he served as board president of HIVCO, a suburban service agency that provides HIV education, information, referral and advocacy. He also represented the suburban HIV community on the Chicago and Cook County HIV Services Planning Council. He was a planning and development consultant to several regional arts organizations, and a past member of the Illinois Arts Alliance board of directors. Born in Indianapolis, he graduated from the University of Evansville in 1971 and received a Master's degree in theatre from Western Illinois University. He is survived by his mother, a brother and a sister. He was preceded in death by his partner, Michael Troyer. Donations may be made to HIVCO.

CHARLES LUKE WOODRUM, 38, an engineer, died Dec. 16 from AIDS-related complications. Born in Germany, he was adopted by Jack and Bennie Woodrum at age 2 and raised in Texas. He received an electrical engineering degree from Texas A&M and a physics degree from the University of Texas at Dallas. He was a member of the Chicago Hellfire Club, and the club's past treasurer. He is survived by his parents, a sister, and his partner, Verne Thomas. Contributions can be made to the Hemophilia Society, Illinois Masonic Hospital or Open Hand.

MARTIN CAPROW, 38, a lawyer whose unsuccessful lawsuit to keep the job he was laid off from mirrored the film *Philadelphia*, died from AIDS complications Dec. 21. In April, 1992, he was laid off from Frank and Freedus lawfirm in San Diego after telling a manager that he had AIDS.

GEORGE COLEMAN, 35, a vice president at G. P. Putnam's Sons publishing house, died Dec. 24 from AIDS complications. He worked on a number of autobiographies, including AIDS spokeswoman Elizabeth Glaser's *In the Absence of Angels*. He is survived by his companion, Mark Lameier.

MARK FINCH, 33, artistic director of Frameline, a non-profit gay and lesbian arts group, and the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, apparently took his own life Jan. 14. Officers found his briefcase on the Golden Gate Bridge Jan. 14 and found suicide notes at his home and office. A native of Manchester, England, he served as distribution manager for Frameline and the British Film Institute before returning to San Francisco in 1992 as Frameline's artistic director. He contributed writing and film criticism to a number of journals and periodicals, including BAY AREA REPORTER, THE GUARDIAN, MONTAGE and SCREEN, and in several film anthologies. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, and a brother and sister.

GARY KALKIN, 44, a marketing executive with Walt Disney Studios, died Jan. 6 from AIDS complications. He produced the campaigns around Disney movies including *Aladdin, The Lion King* and *Beauty and the Beast* and *Pretty Woman* and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. He is survived by his companion, Laurence Mark.

DAVID SILBER, 41, an actor on and off-Broadway, died Dec. 29 from AIDS complications. Best known for his starring role in Rudyard Kipling's *The Story of the Gadsbys*, he appeared in several other Broadway plays, and in *A Christmas Carol* at Ford Theater, which was broadcast of PBS. He is survived by his companion, Marc Brody, and his father, John Silber, president of Boston University.

CONRAD STRASSER, 44, conductor of the New York After Dinner Opera Company, died from AIDS complications Jan. 5. He conducted 56 operas by American composers, including his own work based on words by Gertrude Stein. He is survived by his brother, Jonathan.

ARIEL WATERWOMAN, 42, editor of JUST OUT gay newspaper in Portland, Ore., died Jan. 3 from colon cancer. An herbalist and massage therapist, she joined the paper in '92 and was a member of the Police Bureau's Sexual Minorities Roundtable.

DAVID COLE, 32, a Grammy-winning record producer, died Jan. 26 in New York from spinal meningitis. He was half of the creative team behind C+C Music Factory, and a remixer for Natalie Cole.

NATIONAL from 14

cluding the University of Chicago, Harvard and Yale have already done so. The Duke policy allows partners to receive insurance benefits, education assistance and use of Duke recreational facilities.

▼ The Dallas City Council voted 9 to 6 in January to include marital status and sexual orientation anti-bias protections for city workers in a second test of the issue after the city attorney ruled that the council's vote earlier in January may have been illegal.

▼ U.S. attorneys say one of the defendants charged with plotting to blow up the World Trade Center in a 1993 explosion that killed six was responsible for an earlier bombing of a gay bar. Federal prosecutors said in a court statement said El Sayyid Nosair, one of the 11 defendants planned and carried out the April 21, 1990, bombing of Uncle Charlie's Downtown, a Greenwich Village gay bar. Two bar patrons and an employee were hurt in the attack when a pipe bomb hidden in the club exploded.

▼ A Portland, Ore. firefighter was fired Jan. 13 after pleading no contest to intimidating two women because he thought they were lesbians. James Harder, 42, confronted former State Rep. Hedy Rijken and Danetta Wilke as they traveled from the Oregon coast to Portland. He allegedly screamed obscenities related to sexual orientation and beat on the driver's window of Wilke's car.

▼ The city of Olympia, Wash. in December passed an ordinance to give insurance and bereavement leave benefits to domestic partners of city employees. The policy was approved after two years of work by the city gay and lesbian employees' group.

—Jane Lowers and GayNet

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STRAWBERRY from 38

homosexual, which is an achievement."

Another sacrosanct Cuban cliche is broken with *Strawberry and Chocolate*. It is the programmed dogmatism of the antagonist, David's fellow communist friend, Miguel, that clearly harms the social system he's trying to defend. This stereotyped "paradigm" of Cuban society is the one the audience begins to loathe. "Little by little they discovered he (Diego) was being taken seriously, and suddenly, that the hero of the film was a homosexual, and the bad guy was a communist, which was a twist of conventional values. This was very disconcerting to the audience," said Vladimir, who plays David, and admits that his was a generation educated to see life in very simple terms. "People recognized experiences from their own lives, especially in the gay character, but also in the bad guy saying, 'I committed that kind of injustice against another person, but I didn't realize it was unfair.'"

It is often taken for granted that only a homosexual could script such a sensitive gay character. Senel Paz feels that is a narrow way of thinking. "A writer is capable of expressing characters different from himself, as occurs, for example, whenever I create a female character. Or when Flaubert wrote Madame Bovary. The character invades you, and your talent is to allow yourself to be invaded. I think that in this sense, at a given moment I could be a woman, I could be a homosexual, I could be a horse."

The opening scene when David and Diego meet at Coppelia Park, David's comment of "only a queer" (maricon) would choose strawberry (fresa) when they're serving chocolate" unexpectedly contributed a new term to the Cuban lexicon. Since the movie, to say you prefer strawberry has become the equivalent of being "a friend of Dorothy."

A question often asked during the dozens of interviews Vladimir Cruz has undergone since the film's dizzying success: "What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?" Vladimir, who lives with his wife in Santa Clara, acknowledges that it may be a trick question to find out if he is gay, but doesn't seem perturbed. "I usually try to give a different answer each time. Sometimes I say I like strawberry, other times chocolate, that I like them both together, that I don't like either ...."

Few people on either side of the political fence could have imagined this film made even a couple years ago. In response to Cuba's detractors, who will revel in what they see as an attack on Cuba, Senel said, "There are criticisms of things the Cuban government has done, too, but the essence of the film was to defend the need for tolerance, understanding, acceptance of those who are different, and without sacrificing your own individuality."

To those Americans surprised at this critical take on Cuban society, the film is perhaps testimony that, while Cuba is intrinsically different than the U.S., it is not the stagnant back-water incapable of self-evaluation and change. Champions of Cuba see the film as a victory of sorts, an indicator of the progressive transformations wrought by the economic and social upheavals of recent years.

"I think the universality of Fresa is that it sets forth a human problem (homophobia) that also exists in other countries," said Mirta Ibarra, who won best supporting actress for her role as Nancy, Diego's warm-hearted but manic neighbor who eventually relieves David of his virginity. "For us, though, the film is not just important because of the theme of homosexuality, but because of the need to respect everyone who is different."

Carrying the movie's theme of tolerance one step further into the realm of international relations, Jorge Perugorría said, "David and Diego are different but they end up being friends. This could also be interpreted as saying that Cubans and Cuban Americans could accept our differences and we could fight to save our country. We could give each other a final embrace, like in the end of the movie, and then go have ice cream at Coppelia ... Strawberry, chocolate, or whatever flavor you like."

CLASSIFIED

BULLETIN BOARD

MAINE EAST H.S. 1st annual rendezvous for lesbian/bi women—former students and (current & former) staff. June 1995 in Chicago. Guests of honor: girls who went to prom together. **M.E. Alumni, c/o HOT WIRE, 5210 N. Wayne, Chicago, IL 60640, (312) 769-9009.** *(6/95-T)*

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ARE YOU LOOKING to buy or sell? I am experienced and qualified to help. Serving all your Real Estate needs. 10% at closing to AIDS charity of your choice when you mention this ad. **Call me—RICHARD SMITH, RE/MAX Realty Group, (312) 334-3347** or **(312) 404-3812.** *P-P*

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DIGNITY/CHICAGO is a self-supporting Catholic faith community affirming the intrinsic goodness and wholeness of lesbian/gay and bi-sexual lives and relationships. Join us for Liturgy and Social—Sundays, 7 p.m., at **3344 N. Broadway, (312) 296-0780.** *2/95-T*

ARCHDIOCESAN GAY AND LESBIAN OUTREACH: Gay and lesbian Catholics, Friends & Family celebrate the Eucharist Sunday evenings 7 p.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, 690 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL. Free parking, social hour follows. **(312) 525-3872.**

JEWISH? JOIN US! Congregation Or Chadash; Synagogue for the Lesbian and Gay Community. Shabbat Services every 2nd, 4th and 5th Fridays. 8 p.m. 656 W. Barry. More info: **(312) 248-9456.** *9/95-J*

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CLEANING OUT FOR '95? Lightening up? Creating space? Hire my expertise in organization and detachment for your projects. $12/hour or fee per project. **Sonja Caliendo, (708) 674-6986.** *(2/95-T)*

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ATTENTION LESBIANS! In order to better understand and serve the psychological needs of lesbians, a study is being conducted by a doctoral student in clinical psychology. This study is confidential and you will not be identified by name in any of the results. This study involves completing 3 short questionnaires and will not take more than 30-40 minutes of your time. If you are interested, please call **(312) 862-1933** and leave your name and address. All material will be mailed in a plain manila envelope. Thank you for taking the time to help better understand the needs of womyn.

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MEN

ISO = I seek other.

WE NO LONGER ACCEPT & PRINT ADS WITH HOME PHONE NUMBERS OR ADDRESSES.

WARNING TO READERS: Chicago Police vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Please note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

Beware of sending to prisoners personal information (including photos) which could be used against you. While many simply are seeking friends, some have used such info for blackmail or extortion. *All prisoners have a number immediately following their name in their ads.*

GWM, 37, 5'11", 180, br/hzl, moustache, hairy, very masculine, stable, relationship-oriented, HIV-. ISO n/s mature daddybear top with similar attributes for love & affection. **P.O.Box 152, DesPlaines,IL 60016-0152.** *(3/22)*

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT GWM seeking GHM for friendship or more. 18-35, no games, one-nighters. Respond: **P.O.Box 811131, Chicago,IL 60601.** *(2/22)*

CRAVES BLACK COCK! WM, 100% bottom, 36, fit, healthy, seeking hung Black stud to service. Fr., Gr., Take it! **J. F., 5 N. Wabash, Ste 408, Box 155, Chicago,IL 60602.** *(3/22)*

OUT, BUTCH, attr., thing ISO same 43, 5'10", 210, dk red/blu, beard. Like heavyset, partial to fur but not particular. **NL BOX 905-Q.** *(2/22)*

GRANDPA, ISO grandpas, sons, sons in law, grandsons for safe, kinky man's play in gramps bath/bedroom. **Occupant, P.O.Box 2339, Chicago,IL 60690.**

NOT CURIOUS any longer, just inexperienced. WM, 37, 6', 170#, brn, hzl, smooth chest. ISO healthy HIV- older bro/uncl/dad to show me what I've been missing. Not sure what my interests are yet, but willing to follow your lead. Cpls A+. **P.O. Box 1471, Melrose Pk., IL 60161.** *(3/15)*

THROAT DEPTH inspections. 4 appointments--Boyblrs, construction, bluecollar, uniform, a plus. **P.O.Box 1104 Libertyville,IL 60048-41041.** Well hung please! *(2/15)*

HAIRY DAD ALERT! GWM in late 40's, 5'9", 150# boyishly smooth & slender. Seeking: similar sized muscular hairy chested to age 55, up to 165# for steady dates. Boy likes playful wrestling, massage, leather, jocks, training, cuddling, being bottom. **NL BOX 903-Q.** *(3/15)*

24, 6', ATHLETIC, gd-looking university student looking for genuine & lasting friendship. Love to travel & want to visit USA this summer. Write: **Arek Majewski, Skr. Poczt. 126, 80-958 Gdansk 50, Poland.** *(2/15)*

MATURE GWM seeks men for friendship only. Interest modern art &/or collect. No interest camp sensibility or aesthetics of negation. Respond to quiet minimalist art, ambiance & persons. Like to discuss psychology of creation over wine. Serious only, leave message at **509-8116.** *(2/8)*

SOUTHERN BGM, 48, chubby, looking for a friend, lover, relationship. Well hung BGM, down to earth welcome. All answered. **NL BOX 899-Q.** *(2/8)*

TO ONE special BM: You have stubble beard, trim mustache, shaved head, full lips, wide nose. Are lean, hairy, tall, top, affectionate, HIV-, 35+. Masculine, but forget those sneakers, white sox--you wear sloppy-loose, low-cut slip-ons to expose your sheers; their look, feel--smell--excites you! Glimpse of stocking once was shocking? Still is--seduce me! Make it my privilege alone to keep your toes licked clean; only I may keep your stinkin' sheers on his pillowcase, not that the memory of a melody should haunt my reverie--but the smell of your feet! WM artist, 6', 165#, 57. **NL BOX 901-Q.**

BGM, 32, 6'2", 200#, bottom seeks top, masculine, muscular, BGM for casual friendship. **Boxholder, P.O.Box 87325, Chicago,IL 60680.** *(2/8)*

GWM, 40+, 6', 175#, HIV-, 7' cut, nice mushroom head, attractive, affectionate, non-smoker, seeking 30ish man for monogamous companion. Photo. **NL BOX 883-Q.** *(1/25)*

INCARCERATED BM lonely seeking pen pals for friendship, age & race does not matter, any reply welcome. **Abron Scott, #096378, P.O.Box 747, Starke,FL 32091.** *(1/25)*

ATTRACTIVE BM, 20's, slim, musc. build seeking attractive straight A/A, Oriental or Latino for friendship or possible relationship. **NL BOX 895-Q.** *(1/25)*

BLACK/LATINO bottom wanted: for sweaty, safe sex by GBM 40's, 5'9", 155#. You 30-40, attractive, straight-acting, emotionally/financially secure. Hairy, mustache, hung, a plus. Trim only. Send photo. **NL BOX 897-Q.** *(2/22)*

GWM, 46, 5'6", 132#, film buff, vegetarian, seeks short, slim, healthy males for companionship & safe sex. **NL BOX 893-Q.** *(2/8)*

CATCH OF THE MONTH

MEN

GWM, 32, in NW Indiana, ISO 25-40 for friendship & possibly more. Must be good looking with great personality, **ultra butch** & love having fun. **NL/V 52835.**

WOMEN

ADVENTUROUS GWF, 27, ISO GF who enjoys travel, fine dining, theatre, sports, long talks & romance. If you cherish honesty, value friendship & believe in monogamy, come explore Chicago & beyond with me. **NL BOX 346-Q.**

GWMM, 40 something, hot, sexy, submissive bottom, 5'9", 170#, blnd/ blue ISO 50+ top who will kiss, touch & seduce me to the brink of delirium before undressing me & taking me to ecstasy with his cock. **P.O.Box 161, 1340 W.Irving, Chicago, IL 60613.** *(2/1)*

AFFECTIONATE, ROMANTIC MAN wanted with attractive hairy body who is HIV- & desires real commitment, honesty, togetherness. Me: 6'1", 185#, beard, 38, attractive, wanting intensely loving relationship. **Bill beeper #(708) 788-7166.** *(2/1)*

ATTRACTIVE ORIENTAL late 20's, swimmer's build seeks sincere, attractive, non-hairy GM of all races for friendship or possible relationship. **Voicemail (708) 561-0334.** *(1/25)*

ATTRACTIVE ASIAN student likes to meet Gay Chinese students or professional. I'm sincere, caring, can be a supportive & reliable friend. Other ethnic friends also welcome. **P.O.Box 5635, Chicago,IL 60680-5635.** *(1/25)*

INCARCERATED seeking correspondence for friendship. **Robert Baltimore, #93778, P.O. Box 128, Eddyville,KY 42038.** *(2/1)*

LONELY WM seeking older male for relationship. I'm very romantic. **Richard Lawson, #362250, P.O.Box 747, Starke,FL 32091.** *(2/1)*

WOMEN

ISO = I seek other.

IT'S EASY to meet the right woman at ACI. We get to know you, find out together what you feel is compatible, then match you accordingly. The only service where you speak to her before meeting and pay only 1/2 down and the rest **AFTER** you meet a partner. Call: **Alternative Connections, Inc.** for more information **(312) 494-1449** *(3/1)*

LOOKING FOR A MATCH? Let's Do Coffee, Inc.—the only personalized introduction service exclusively for lesbians—introduces you to the woman you're looking for! Call LDC today for guaranteed, confidential, personalized service: **(312) 553-0727.** *(7/95)*

SENSUAL, SANE, solvent, single lesbian, 44, NW 'burbs, seeks woman of intelligence, wit & passion. Tall & a little bit butch wouldn't hurt. Sound like anyone you know? Let's get acquainted. **NL BOX 354-Q.** *(2/22)*

CALIFIAESQUE ADVENTURE. Attractive 31 y/o size 22 wants to learn ropes from bottom to top. You: over 30, leather brickhouse w/perverted sense of humor. Let's wrestle. **VOICE 52871.** *(2/22)*

GWF 27, ANDROGYNOUS, athletic, outgoing, good sense of humor, & just a little shy. ISO GWF 25-35 for friendship or possible relationship who likes to have fun, whether it's going out with friends or staying in, cuddling up & watching a movie. If this sounds like you, drop me a line. No bi's, drugs nor smokers. **NL BOX 356-Q.** *(2/22)*

WHAT I WANT: a woman of color who's 36-47 y/o, compassionate, funny, not hung up on looks (but thinks I'm gorgeous!), passionate, intelligent, emotionally stable (and available), gainfully employed, willing to experiment (with life & me). Soft butch wouldn't hurt, generous of heart & hand. If you're most of the above, give me a call. Hittin' 2 out of 14? Hang up! **VOICE 52873.**

DO YOU FIT this description? Tall, stunning Black woman with gorgeous braided hair, black jacket, black leggings & boots in Paris, Jan. 8th. If this is you please respond with name & phone #. Another clue... .my response to your question was "Yes, immediately." **VOICE 52869.** *(2/22)*

LISA, remember me? Paris, New Year's Eve. Let's dance again. Hoffman Estates is next door to Palatine. Call me. **VOICE 52875.** *(2/22)*

U GOTTA READ THIS--Feminine GBF, 22, looking for an 18-25 y/o who thinks British comedy is a scream, *Nick at Nite* is cool, knows who Kevin Matthews, Johhny B., & Danny Bonaduce are & absolutely loves a good movie. I think we should talk over a Saturday lunch. (No druggies or studs). Voicemail **(312) 402-6040.** *(3/15)*

34 Y/O FEMININE GWF seeking feminine GWF 30-35 for friendship & possible relationship. I like softball, jogging, movies & romantic evenings alone with that special person. Smokers, drug users need not apply. I will respond to all inquiries. **NL/V 52863.** *(2/15)*

GF ISO easygoing, likes movies & plays, quiet eves. at home. Looking for someone sincere. Fems preferred. Beeper# **(708) 880-6021.** *(3/15)*

IT'S SPIRITUAL distance that separates people & not physical distance. Professional playful nonsmoking GBF ISO 35-45 y/o honest, thoughtful, intelligent soulmate who enjoys theater, music, films, & the occasional dance. I'm built for comfort, not for speed, & the size & color of your heart matter more than the superficial. Now it's your turn. Please write & tell me what you want. Shallow girls, curious bisexuals, one night stands, & alcohol & drug abusers need not respond. **KAL, P.O.Box 295, Gurnee,IL 60031.** *(3/15)*

GWF, 34, INTELLIGENT, independent, well read, traveled, caring, professional, easy-on-the-eyes, trim, womanly. Loves, *NYTs*, culinary adventures, corked grapes, insightful intellects, the humanistic, sardonically humored. Capable of an occasional bike ride. An admitted *ER* fan. Seeks attractive, feminine woman with similar identity, self-confidence, inspirational playfulness, spontaneous inclinations. **NL BOX 348-Q.** *(2/15)*

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT GWF, 32, living on the northside. Academic/professional enjoys movies, walks, & quiet evenings. In search of intellectual conversation, friendship, & possibly romance. Seeking pulchritudinous, educated GWF, 32-36. Must be emotionally secure, nonsmoker, nondrinker, & drug-free. Call(voicemail) **(312)877-5051.** *(2/15)*

GBF, WESTERN suburbs, ISO walking partner. Aiming for fitness & fun & reducing my workaholic ways. Let's walk together. Who knows what else could develop? **NL/V 52865.** *(3/15)*

I DON'T form lasting opinions of people based solely on the wording in a personal ad. If you're the same, & want to meet a GWF, 27, located in the western suburbs with varied interests, intelligence & a sense of humor, call me. Let's form a friendship or better. **VOICE 52867.**.

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY & financially secure professional seeking a woman who enjoys life to her fullest & values its simple pleasures. I often wonder if it's impossible to find a down to earth woman who is is honest, respectful & has integrity. Are you adventurous, fun, serious, light-hearted, independent & self-assured? If so, I'm looking forward to hearing from you. **NL BOX 350-Q.** *(2/15)*

HAPPY NEW relationship sought. Me: Deep & gentle, attractive & slim GWF, age 40. Financial executive with low key, quirky sense of humor & weekend dog visitation privileges. Elegant with an appreciation for the absurd. Even tempered & strong of spirit. "Lipstick Lesbian." Bright, active & outgoing. Loves animals. Hates children. You: Conventionally pretty, slim, feminine & cosmopolitan, with a sense of humor & mischievous soul. You enjoy slapstick & an occasional scatological reference while sipping champagne. You are intelligent, educated & enjoy the pleasures of travel, cultural events, social functions & personal growth. Spirituality a plus. Natural curiosity a must. Objective: A permanent gentle life in a loving relationship. Photo appreciated. **NL BOX 352-Q.** *(2/15)*

GWF, 40, BRIGHT, creative, fit, natural-good looks, warm, independent, successful, hopelessly urban. Has no fem-an-drog-butch identity. Loves intimacy, a thinking brain, food, wine, simplicity but not always the simple, stability with spark, kindness with backbone. **NL BOX 342-Q.** *(2/8)*

GWF, SOUTHWEST side, 42, tall, slender, soft butch, relationship-minded, warm, loving, caring, loves music, dancing, adventurous times together. Seeks passionate GWF 35-45 who likes humor, movies, fun times & possibly sharing what life has to offer together. **NL BOX 340-Q.** *(2/8)*

GBF, 24, OUTGOING, intelligent, femme, sensuous lips, sexy legs, humorous seeking GBF or GHF stud (or soft butch) for friendship, fun, intimacy, 25-35 y/o. **VOICE 52861.** *(3/8)*

KIND, ATTRACTIVE, GWF, 5'2", 128#, professional, good sense of humor, 40+, straight-looking & acting; ISO attractive, feminine, kind, no-too-heavy GWF or GHF in 40's. **P.O.Box 264, 660 Wentworth, Calumet City, IL 60409.** *(3/29)*

GWF ISO someone who loves to commune with nature, enjoys the theatre, musicals, opera, ballet, loves sporting events of all kinds a big plus, loves to cuddle anytime, anywhere. Looking for someone 27+, femme, what nationality you are does not matter, but you must believe in monogamous relationship, &

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How to place an ad:

▼ The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 1 one in Outlines, 5 weeks (a queer month) in Nightlines. ▼ ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups and businesses wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates (**Outlines**: $12.50 a month for 1st 30 words, 25¢ each word over 30; 3 months $33; **Nightlines**: $10/30 words 1 week, 4 weeks $30, 8 wks $55).

▼ In addition to your ad, send your name, street address (even if you have a PO Box), home phone & signature —*we must* have this info for our records. *It will remain confidential.*

▼ You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, **unless you specify you do not want one.** You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs **$1.49 per minute.** Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.

▼ You can rent an Outlines/Nightlines mailbox for $6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box which you prefer to use that's fine. *We encourage people not to use their home address or phone number.*)

▼ Ads received by the 15th of the month will run in the following Outlines and next available Nightlines.

How to respond to an ad:

▼ If an ad ends with an **NL/V #**, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail). ▼ If ad ends with **NL BOX #**, you can ***only*** reply by mail. If it ends with **Voice #**, you can ***only*** reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).

▼ To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **Outlines/Nightlines, 3059 N. Southport, Chicago, IL 60657.**

▼ To leave a voice-mail message ($1.49/min.), use a *touch-tone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 and 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that particular ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

Outlines/Nightlines Personals

Ad should read (20 words free, 25¢ each word over 20/use other sheet if necessary):

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FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❑ **I DO NOT want a voice box #**

*PERSONALS RATES ONLY APPLY TO ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups and businesses can place ads in the personals, but at **Classified** rates (**Outlines** one month $12.50 1st 30 words, 25¢ each extra over 30; **Nightlines** 1 week $10, plus 25¢ each word over 30, 4 weeks $30, 25¢ each word over 30 for each week the ad runs).*

Send to: Outlines/Nightlines, 3059 N. Southport, Chicago, IL 60657

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Name: _____

Address: _____

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Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words FREE

Additional words 25¢ ea. $_____

MailBox # ($6 per month) $_____

To run: 1 Month ❑ 2 Months ❑
(Total = all charges multiplied by # of months)

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PERSONALS

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old-fashioned dating. I am a 34 y/o butch dyke, 5'3" 180# (trying to lose) blonde hair, blue eyes; I do smoke (also trying to quit) & occasional drinker. Come to me & I will spoil you with love & attention. **NL BOX 344-Q. (3/8)**

TENNIS ANYONE? I'm looking for a tennis partner. Intermediate level, usually play at McFetridge late afternoons, evenings, or Sundays. Dependability more important than ability. **NL BOX 334-Q.** *(2/22)*

SMART, SEXY, energetic & eclectic 28 y/o lesbian professional. I am well-read, into sushi, fitness, hot tubs, cooking, & good coffee. If you strive to live life zestfully, value honesty, intimacy & self-motivation, drop me a note & share your thoughts. **NL BOX 336-Q.** *(1/25)*

GWF, 40'S seeking new friends. I love dancing, all music, hanging out. ISO non-judgmental open-minded GF's to share the ups & downs of lesbian life with. **NL BOX 338-Q.** *(1/25)*

GWF PETITE FEM, 24, Fox Valley area, professional, looking for relationship & possible soul mate, love to make love, dance, movies, arts, music. **NL/V 52857.** *(2/22)*

HOPELESS ROMANTIC, cute, intelligent athletic professional GWF, 28, who enjoys movies, dancing, romantic evenings, working out, & shopping. ISO similar GWF 25-32 for friendship or relationship. Call **(312) 918-4097(voicemail).** Leave message. *(2/15)*

BEAUTIFUL, ENTHUSIASTIC, dynamic lipstick lesbian, slim, petite, feminine, well-educated, cultured, elegant, sensitive, kind, warm, spiritual, successful, adventuresome, with a great sense of humor is seeking a beautiful, feminine woman who lives life with intelligence, integrity, style, curiosity, passion & humor. No smokers, photo appreciated. **NL BOX 330-Q.** *(2/8)*

SEEKING LESBIANS consciously working on their emotional, mental, physical & spiritual healing to share experiences & form friendships. Write **NL BOX 326-Q.** *(2/1)*

BLUECOLLAR GWF top, 48, seeks a whitecollar GWF bottom, 40+, submissive, straight looking, feminine, drug & smoke free for relationship, some S&M/B&D. **NL BOX 318-Q.** *(2/1)*

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT, financially independent 27 y/o Italian lesbo seeks attractive, sensual, sophisticated lesbians 30-40 for pleasurable romps, possibly more. **NL BOX 322-Q.** *(2/1)*

GWF, NEW TO Midwest, seeks to establish new friends & acquaintances to help nourish recently transplanted roots. I am educated, intellectual, politically aware, emotionally balanced, & just a wee bit off the wall. Am looking for others open to life, opportunity, exploration, humor, & truth (not to mention an occasional movie, concert, or play). Liberal/progressive values a plus. This is not a sex ad. Response welcome from both singles & stable, monogamous couples. Will respond to all serious inquiries. **NL BOX 290-Q.** *(1/25)*

ATTRACTIVE GBF, 25, adventuresome, intelligent, bilingual seeks humorous, intelligent GBF or GHF for friendship & maybe more later. **VOICE 52947.** *(1/25)*

GWF, 40'S. Gentle, loving soul dominant. Seeking submissive for relationship to include bondage. Petite femme preferred. Photo appreciated. **NL BOX 314-Q.** *(1/25)*

GWF, 48 Y/O, 5'4", 108#, brn/bl. quiet, affectionate, caring, enjoy quiet evenings at home. Looking for same for friendship, possibly more. Honesty a must. Smoker, social drinker, WNW suburbs. **NL/V 52913.** *(1/25)*

Mix & Match

SUBMISSIVE WM 40, offers body & mind to all assertive/dominant females. Your wish s my command! Novices welcome. **VOICE 52833.** *(2/15)*

GOOD LOOKING married man seeks a friend. Send picture to **P.O.Box 597247, Chicago,IL 60659.** *(2/15)*

PLATONIC lunchmates for downtown noontime conversation, walks, male/female wanted. I'm a fun-loving GF, 39. **P.O.Box 11508, Chicago,IL 60611-0508 (VOICE 52859).** *(3/1)*

HELP ME! This SWM, 24, needs one or more BiF to fulfill my wildest dream. Age/race unimportant. **Pager# 299-3792.** *(1/25)*

GM, 31, 145# looking to correspond with bisexual men & women. **Steve Moulton, #97445, P.O.Box 128, Eddyville,KY 42038.** *(1/25)*

Personals deadline: Wednesdays for Nightlines.

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to respond to VOICE personals Punch 1, then the 5-digit code. $1.49/min. (NL/V or Voice #s) at end of most personals.

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Mardi Gras Around the World

by Cynthia A. Marquard

One of the most popular party times for Lesbigay people is Mardi Gras, a festival centering around Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent in the Christian tradition. Mardi Gras is celebrated in all predominantly Roman Catholic countries and marks the end of the carnival season that began on January 6. There are gay Mardi Gras celebrations in many countries and communities, but the biggest and most famous are in New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro, and Sydney, Australia.

Mardi Gras in New Orleans

In the U.S., Mardi Gras is almost synonymous with New Orleans. We can thank the early French colonists for that. They brought the custom of celebrating Mardi Gras (which in French translates to "Fat Tuesday") to the Southern region of our country in the 1700s. And New Orleans hasn't been the same since.

The Mardi Gras festivities in New Orleans begin at least two weeks before Shrove Tuesday with parades and parties and balls. Mardi Gras organizations called krewes sponsor the various events. In addition to the city's 50 or so straight krewes, there are about half a dozen gay krewes that sponsor balls. These balls are private and by invitation only. Any visitor who can get a ticket is extremely fortunate.

The big event, of course, is Fat Tuesday, a veritable orgy (gay and straight) of parades, parties, and general public drunkenness. During the many parades, riders on elaborate (often risqué) floats throw cheap Mardi Gras beads and doubloons (play money coins about the size of a silver dollar) to the frenzied crowd. The person who stomps on the doubloon first gets to keep it. And everyone goes crazy for those beads. They get tossed everywhere. When it's over, Mardi Gras beads hang from the trees and the ornate ironwork balconies that decorate buildings in the old French Quarter, the heart of what's happening during Mardi Gras.

King cakes decorated in purple, green, and gold to represent the frankincense, gold, and myrrh brought to the Christ Child by the Three Wise Men, are bought by the general populace and shared with friends. Inside each cake is a little figure. Some bars have king cake parties. Whoever gets the slice with the figure of a baby can win bar tabs.

Needless to say, during Mardi Gras, New Orleans is teeming with tourists. Nothing short of a miracle will get you a room—especially at the gay/lesbian guesthouses—unless you have reservations months in advance. The most convenient way to go may be with a gay Mardi Gras tour package.

Fairy Tale Vacations, for example, has put together a four-night/five day package for gays from February 25 to March 1. The package includes accommodations at The Monteleone in the French Quarter, a carriage ride, strong chickory coffee and beignets (delicious deep-fried square donuts smothered in powdered sugar) at Café du Monde in the French Market, and coveted tickets to The Gay Ball. Prices for all this start at $629, not including air fare.

But even if you can't get there for Fat Tuesday, the spirit of Mardi Gras can be enjoyed all year long in the general party atmosphere of the French Quarter. Bourbon St. is always cloaked in a living fog of music. One place will be thick with Dixieland rhythms, in another will hang the thin wail of a lone horn, then the air will become dense again with the heavy beat of a rock band. You don't even have to go inside the clubs to enjoy the music. The sound can be clearly heard just hanging around outside.

And the party never stops. It just slows down a bit when the sun comes up.

Flying down to Rio

A really exotic way to get into the spirit of Mardi Gras is to head for Rio de Janeiro, a city built amidst steep hills in southeastern Brazil. Rio is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, situated between green mountains and blue ocean waters. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the white beaches of Guanabara Bay. The best-known landmarks of Rio are Sugar Loaf Mountain, a rounded peak rising more than 1,325 feet, and Corcovado Mountain, with its huge statue of Christ overlooking the city.

Rio has a heavily Portuguese colonial background, and Portuguese is the national language. The city grew up on the site of a fort built by Portuguese soldiers in 1565 during their campaign to drive out French settlers. The French left in 1567 (probably to start Mardi Gras in New Orleans).

Rio's Shrove Tuesday celebration is called Carnival and encompasses four days and nights of parades, parties, and dancing in the streets. To help gay and lesbian party-goers focus on the parties and not the intricacies of getting around in a foreign culture, Above and Beyond Tours has put together a fabulous Carnival package, departing this year on February 18 and returning March 2. The first stop is Salvador, for a day of touring and a night of feasting and folkloric dance demos. Then on to Rio and the five-star Rio Atlantia Hotel on famous Copacabana Beach. The package includes city and rainforest tours conducted by local gay guides, Brazilian breakfasts, assorted lunches and dinners, and a great Gay Ball—all for $3,095 from Chicago (double occupancy).

Lesbigay Mardi Gras in Sydney

Unlike the Mardi Gras celebrations elsewhere in the world, where gays and lesbians just join in the general fun, Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia, is a predominantly gay event. And it goes on for a solid month, celebrating the Lesbigay lifestyle with parties, sports events, arts and film festivals, and probably what it the hugest gay parade anywhere in the world. The gay/lesbian Mardi Gras Parade, held at night, attracts upwards of 500,000 spectators!

Above and Beyond Tours has a Sydney Mardi Gras package that will put you up for 9 nights at a deluxe hotel, includes full breakfast daily, as well as a harbor cruise, Mardi Gras Party tickets, several shows, and an all-gay/lesbian cocktail reception at the world famous Sydney Opera House. Price for this on Quantas from Los Angeles starts at $2,295 double occupancy. A budget tour for five nights at a three-star hotel starts at $1,695 double occupancy.

And if you can't make Mardi Gras this year, there's always Sydney's Sleaze Ball. This anything-goes event is held every October as a fundraiser for the Gay Mardi Gras. And word has it this year's event will rival Mardi Gras itself.

Marquard is owner/manager of Envoy Travel, 740 N. Rush, # 609, Chicago 60611. She is also a member and former vice-president of the International Gay Travel Assn. Cynthia can be reached at 312-787-2400 or 1-800-44-ENVOY.

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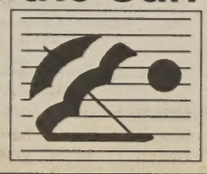

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KUDA BOOKS from 42

ing Gianna Maglione mysteries of **Penny Mickelbury** are but the tip of the iceberg. Incidentally, Mimi Patterson, African-American newspaper investigative reporter, is the more interesting character, perhaps because Mickelbury draws on her own experience as a newspaper, radio and TV reporter. Her new book, ***Night Songs*** (Naiad, $10.95) continues in high style—Gianna and Mimi hopefully will have many more encounters.

Helen Elaine Lee's *The Serpent's Gift* contains a story within a story. Lee says: "It was the desire to tell the hidden story of my great aunt and her lover, two women who went at life full tilt and cherished the written and spoken word, that led me to write about Ouida and Zella."

Barbara Chase-Riboud's historical novel, ***The President's Daughter*** (Crown, $24), follows the picaresque life of the reputed daughter of Thomas Jefferson and his slave, Sally Hemmings (half-sister of his deceased wife). In the course of her life she is portrayed as having a long-term lesbian relationship as well as a couple of husbands and a passel of kids.

Reference books are trying hard to keep pace, but even books like ***Notable Black American Women*** and ***Black Firsts: 2000 Years of Extraordinary Achievement*** haven't found a way to use "Black" and "lesbian" in the same sentence when there is ample opportunity. Magazines, small presses, readings, groups like Literary Exchange and Mountain Moving Coffeehouse's Lecherous Lesbians of Color assure a viable & vibrant future for Black lesbian literature.

Back in print

Blanche McCrary Boyd gave Rita May Brown a solid bump on the pantheon of lesbian writers when her novel ***The Revolution of Little Girls*** hit the charts a few years ago. Publisher Random House acceded to the demand for long out of print autobiographical essays of Boyd's and has just released ***The Redneck Way of Knowledge*** with an introduction by Dorothy Allison under its Vintage Contemporaries imprint at $10. Worth every dime!

New Books

An Australian and an Englishwoman have collected 15 essays from our country and theirs that explore how lesbianism is portrayed in popular culture—movies, TV, sports, etc. All the pop icons from Madonna to Martina are covered and commented on in ***The Good, the Bad, and the Gorgeous: Popular Culture's Romance with Lesbianism,*** edited by **Diane Hamer** and **Belinda Budge** (Pandora, $16). Pithy, if you get past the kooky cover. (Wasn't it just the other day we were yammering about lesbian invisibility?)

Z. Budapest, long revered by some in the community seeking alternative spirituality, follows her mainstream success, *The Goddess in the Office,* with ***The Goddess in the Bedroom: A Passionate Woman's Guide to Celebrating Sexuality Every Night of the Week*** (HarperSanFrancisco, $10). Touted "for a wicked good time" to help women "... get just what (or who) they want in the bedroom of their dreams."

Former Chicagoan **Judy Grahn's *Blood, Bread and Roses: How Menstruation Created the World*** (Beacon, $14) is available in paperback. Another *tour de force* from the poet and writer who brought us two other major contributions to our cultural history, *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds* and *Queen of Swords*.

Jean Swallow's *Out from Under: Sober Dykes and our Friends* is 10 years old and she now brings us an update in ***The Next Step: Lesbians in Long-Term Recovery*** (Alyson, $9.95), well over two dozen stories of ongoing battles with additions.

New from Naiad for February is a romance with an ongoing plotline reminiscent of *The Nun's Story,* **Evelyn Kennedy,** author of *Cherished Love,* offers her new work, ***Forever*** ($10.95). ***Whispers*** by **Kris Bruyer** is the new mystery-suspenser ($10.95). The present heroine deals with another nun, but this one died a century ago. Haven't seen the books, just the blurbs so can't comment.

Sister Safety Pin, by **Lorrie Sprecher** (Firebrand, $9.95), bills itself as a punk lesbian novel that " ... captures the in-your-face attitude of the 1980s punk scene." Sharp, sassy, wry, witty—go along for the ride from California campus to the March on Washington as Melany searches for an identity without labels.

Cookbook

On a totally different tack, if you need an excuse to go into any of Ann Sather's restaurants, you'll want to check out ***Ann Sather's Restaurant, A Chicago Tradition: 50th Anniversary Cookbook*** (privately published, $12.95—with a portion of the price going to community causes). Restaurant history, biographies, and (of course) recipes—did you know owner **Tom Tunney** trained in French cuisine? I've always wanted a recipe for Farikol, now I know allspice is the secret! Artists will be delighted to learn about Norwegian Rosemaling, from a cookbook no less! The only tidbit they don't share, but long-term area residents know, is that the present Belmont restaurant location was formerly ... no, I won't tell, it may be in the 75th anniversary edition.

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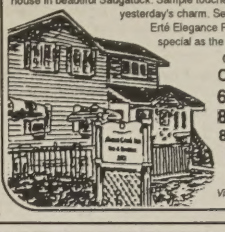
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Q LINES

People Behind the Headlines

by Cathy Seabaugh

African-Americans in Business

This month's OUTLINES Q-LINES looks at Chicago African-American gays and lesbians in the workforce—particularly as entrepreneurs.

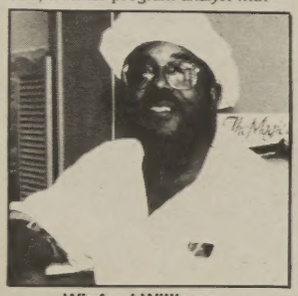
WINFORD WILLIAMS

The clever and often colorful decorations filling the front window of The Private Baker, 1817 W. Irving Park Rd., catch the eyes of passersby if the smell of fresh-baked goods hasn't drawn them through the front door already. Winford Williams opened the storefront , just east of Damen Avenue, in November 1992, deciding on the business name based on a favorite Tina Turner hit, "Private Dancer."

"It's like I'm everybody's private baker, I'll do what you want me to do," said 42-year-old Williams, who offers a full line of pastries. "My only limitations are the limits of my workspace."

A self-taught baker, Williams developed his love for this line of work at a young age. "I'd always collect a lot of magazines and cookbooks," said the oldest of four sons. "I'd pass bakeries and look at things and wonder how they were done. My mother always made dinner and I wanted to make dessert."

Williams left his hometown of South Bend, Ind., 20 years ago to follow his heart to Chicago where Larry Friedman, a senior program analyst with



Winford Williams
Photo by Cathy Seabaugh

Harris Bank, was living. In October, the couple will celebrate their 20th anniversary. "Everyone's trying to get us to have a commitment ceremony," said Williams, who made a lot of commitment cakes this past year. "I say, 'C'mon, after 20 years?' They just want us to throw a big party."

Williams would know how to throw one—at least the food part. He worked as a pastry chef at Rolfs Patisserie, pastry cook at the Fairmont Hotel, decorator trainee at Let Them Eat Cake (under its previous ownership), and assistant pastry chef at the new Berghoff's (now closed but which was located where Michael Jordan's restaurant sits).

But he hasn't always been a man of the kitchen. Williams worked at Columbus, Cuneo & Cabrini Medical Center for 10 years in the medical records department. "This started out as a hobby out of my house because I used to just bake cakes for friends and for people in the hospital," he said. "I decided to go ahead and (start the business) because it's something I'd always talked about doing and told people I wanted to do."

Williams enrolled at Cooking Hospitality Institute of Chicago and earned a certificate while becoming more familiar with his new chosen field. The security of a long-term relationship also meant financial security as Williams set out on his business quest.

"We'd talked about this for a long time," Williams said, "and Larry told me not to worry about it, that we could live on what he was making."

Private Baker has been balancing the receivables and payables since the first year and, though Williams has yet to see a sizeable profit, he continues expanding. He began offering pizza after a pizza place next door closed down, and he is looking to develop business relationships with restaurants in the lesbian and gay community.

Williams has baked for lots of weddings, including a lesbian ceremony last summer with a first-class reception at Cafe Brauer, catered by Lauren's Catering with Williams' pastries.

Several lesbian and gay couples connected with The Private Baker at last year's "Commitment to Love," and Williams will be back at the second annual event, 4:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at Ann Sather's on Belmont. He promises to have a healthy selection of sinfully delicious sampler desserts.

Call Private Baker at 880-2440.

BETTY POWELL & TAMERA KILPATRICK

They provide a sort of haven for lesbians and gay men in the western suburbs, a safe place where women-loving women and men-loving men can gather and talk, watch a movie or discuss a book on homosexuality. A Book For All Seasons, 114 S. Bloomingdale Rd. in Bloomingdale (a few miles southwest of O'Hare), has matured to be much more than just another bookstore.

"I really wanted to have my own business," said Betty Powell, co-owner of the bookstore along with her partner of four years, Tamera Kilpatrick. "We'd just gotten back from the March on Washington (April 1993) and were really excited. I was talking to a friend about opening some kind of business, but I didn't know what, and she said, 'You're a smart girl; I'm sure you'll think of something.' "

Suburbanites generally have a reason for living in the suburbs and, therefore, Powell thought it would be nice if lesbians and gay men didn't have to drive all the way into Chicago to find reading material from or about "their community."

"We started looking at another house on Third Street in the middle of Old Town (Bloomingdale)," Kilpatrick said, beginning to explain how they landed a lease on the Victorian home that houses their business. "Betty drove by this place and saw a "for lease" sign, looked at the house and loved it, then had me go look at it."

Its layout compatible with the women's store design ideas—kids' books in a kids' room, lesbian and gay reading materials in the adult bedrooms upstairs, cookbooks in the kitchen, etc.—Powell and Kilpatrick signed a two -year lease in August 1993.

In addition to the retail business, including T-shirts and movie rental, A Book For All Seasons offers evening socials every fourth Saturday, movie night the third Friday of each month, and a women of color book discussion the second Tuesday of each month.

"The Saturday evening social is like a big potluck," said 31-year-old Kilpatrick. "All the lesbians come out here and have a good time."

Kilpatrick (left) and Powell
Photo by Cathy Seabaugh

Powell, who last fall finished her master's degree in accounting and finance, pursued all viable avenues for business loans in the fall of 1993.

"We talked to about 10 banks; only three would consider us as a startup business," she said. "I put together a business plan and presented it. The Small Business Administration in the past has not made loans to bookstores. We worked with a bank in Hanover Park and they contacted the SBA, but the answer was still no. Small business rides heavily on the person (applying for the loan). It all comes down to (the bank) taking that risk. For bigger banks, even though a SBA loan would be guaranteed, it's not worth the paperwork if the loan is for less than $250,000. We haven't had any luck at all to date."

The bookstore's birth and growth come from the women's savings, which limits their expansion. "You hear there's a lot of money out there for women and minorities," said 39-year-old Powell. "I think that's a myth." She contacted the Women's Business Development Center."The problem I had is they want a $250 non-refundable charge just to look over the plan," Powell said. "Their role is more to educate banks about women running businesses and showing them we're worth the investment."

Powell, who had worked 10 years for Digital Equipment, holds a full-time job with a consulting firm in the northwest suburbs and is in the bookstore on weekends. Kilpatrick, who spends about 55 hours a week at the store, has a part-time night job with UPS.

The two women are raising Kilpatrick's nine-year-old son and share custody of Powell's eight-year-old son with the father. "We have our family meetings 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings," Kilpatrick said. "The guys call themselves brothers."

"Gregory was so excited to have a 24-hour playmate," Powell said, referring to her son living in the same home with Kilpatrick's son, Omry. "They've gotten along famously."

Although their days are quite long, Powell and Kilpatrick's relationship seems to hold strong. If their thirst for success is as persistent as Kilpatrick's pursuit of Powell that began 15 years ago, they are certain to find it.

The curious readers who want to hear the details of the courtship should check out a Saturday social or movie night. Once you're in the store, you'll realize Bloomingdale isn't in the middle of nowhere and see that A Book For All Seasons has an incredible library of lesbian and gay reading.

Call (708) 893-9866

Elvie (LV) JORDAN

After 11 years of marriage and two pregnancies, Elvie (also known as LV) Jordan fell in love with a woman.

"I didn't go through any coming out bullshit," she said, passing on one of her overwhelming smiles. "I just fell in love and left."

She was divorced by the age of 30 and within five years had built her own company, LV Handknit Designs, into an established clothing line. Demand began exceeding supply, so she set up additional production in New York and grew to supplying a dozen stores in the Midwest, including Carson's corporate level.

"I've always loved working with my hands," said Jordan, 43. "While I was pregnant the first time, my ex-husband's cousin taught me how to knit."

She enrolled in the textile fiber program at the Art Institute of Chicago, about the same time of her divorce, and chose yarn as her medium.

"We had to do a module for class," she said. "I chose skirts, jackets, tops ... they all went together, but they could stand alone. The instructors took my stuff over to the fashion department so they could see what I'd done."

Her class project became Jordan's first line of clothing, which she peddled to two stores in Lincoln Park. More stores wanted her clothes, then more ... then she called the apparel mart one day to speak with the businessman who was handling her clothing line—he was gone.

"He had my patterns and I wasn't a big enough designer to be able to do much about it," Jordan said. "So I started over again."

Life in the clothing industry has been up and down, though Jordan keeps her positive approach to the coming year

LV Jordan

and potential growth. A representative from Florida has expressed interest in marketing Jordan's new "gay line" of rainbow-colored scarves, hats, etc. The articles are or will be available at WomanWild, Spare Parts (in Saugatuck, Mich.), Pride Agenda Bookstore (Oak Park) and Gay Mart.

Mother to two grown daughters, Jordan is an old pro at taking care of herself and her responsibilities. Her father died when Jordan was very young, her mother was murdered when Jordan was seven, and gangs killed her brother when he was 15.

"When I was young, it seemed like everyone I got close to died or went away," she said. "I raised my girls to be independent, self-reliant so they could take care of themselves."

In addition to running her own business and raising children, Jordan found time the past four years to serve on the Mayor's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, though she is stepping down from that post due to other time commitments. She and youngest daughter Illana participated in three or four forums offered at Howard Brown Health Center for lesbians and gay men wanting to have children, giving some insight on the issues they faced while Illana and older sister Tamara were growing up. Jordan served on the HBHC advisory council when the women's program first was getting started.

Personal time, when it's available, is shared with the woman Jordan fell for at the 1993 March on Washington. They share a home in Old Town.

The past two clothing seasons have looked quite promising, Jordan said, so she's as optimistic as ever and anxious to produce more of her "wearable art," a job she said never gets old. Jordan is available for custom work, too.

She'll be the featured designer at WomanWild the weekend of Feb. 18-19, 5237 N. Clark. "It's still hard for me to put down my needles and go out and have some fun."

Call 915-0763 for details.

SHELTON WATSON

Shelton Watson has a knack for catching on quickly.

"I've always been the sort of person who could watch someone do something and pick it up," he said. "Then I want them to move over so I can do it."

Watson's south Chicago high school, Hales Franciscan, got a donation from AT&T to set up a computer lab, he explained. Once exposed to the wonders of the computer world, Watson was intrigued, enough so that he's been a computer technician the past 12 years at The John Nuveen Company, the oldest and largest investment company specializing in municipal bonds.

He started at Nuveen immediately after high school, working part-time while beginning a degree program in computer and business at the Illinois Institute of Technology. "I knew I didn't want to do computer work my whole life," Watson said. "I changed my major and decided to study psychology because I wanted to work with people."

He eventually left IIT, taking a full-time job with Nuveen at the company's request. "The company was upgrading to super mini-computers and these guys came in from California to set it all up," said Watson. "I'd watch them run all these diagnostic tests. After they left, when things started going wrong with the system, no one else knew how to work on them. As my knowledge grew, their need for me grew, so they brought me on full-time."

Watson sits at a help desk, answering the questions of some 375 computer users, a career that seems to combine computers and psychology. Outside the office, Watson sometimes helps people get computers donated to their organizations and teaches them how to use the modern tools. "I don't charge anything for it, though," he said. "I do it just because. It's interesting watching peoples' interest come alive when they start working on the computer."

Watson and his partner of five years, Clarence, live in the apartment just below Watson's mother in a building owned by the Watson family. He and his family are close, literally and figuratively. "I came out as a sophomore in high school to a school counselor," said 30-year-old Watson. "He said it's okay if you don't want to label yourself right now. Things might change down the road. I really had no problems coming out to people because of the positive response I got from him and the support I've always gotten from my family."

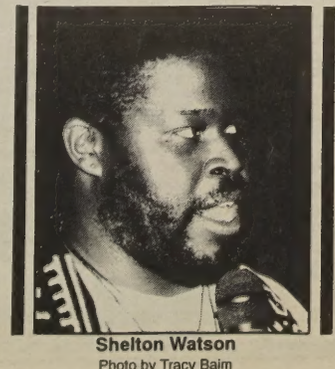
While serving as president of the Hales Franciscan alumni association, Watson met another board of trustees member who told him about the Book Forum, a discussion group for African-American lesbians and gay men.

"I met a lot of interesting people there," he said. "I started to get a broader view of what being Black and gay in the Black gay community is all about. We read a number of books on different topics, like *A Foot in Each World* by Leanita McClain, a TRIBUNE writer who committed suicide at age 32. She also wrote a very controversial column called, 'How White People Taught Me to Hate.'

"My joining the Book Forum was good training for joining Group Dialogue, which deals with more personal issues: support for dealing with your sexual orientation and spirituality, family...."

Watson remains a member of both groups, as well as Chicago Black Gays and Lesbians, of which he is an original member. He has attended the national Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, which sparked his interest in helping organize an umbrella organization for local Black lesbian and gay groups.

"I felt we needed this type of conduit, this networking vehicle by which we could have a common calendar of events and pool our resources," he said. When Michael Harrington and Steve Wakefield gathered folks together, Watson was among them. He was also co-chair of Proud Black Lesbians and Gays when they formed to march in the 1993 Bud Billiken Parade and that was the catalyst for his serving on the Mayor's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, to which he was appointed in October 1993. He is now the first African-American to chair ACGLI. "I'm getting exposed to a lot of different people and different issues," he said. "I'm getting super-sensitized to the issues of lesbians all over the city, *all* women. It's going to help me to be more effective dealing with people and their issues in the future."



Shelton Watson
Photo by Tracy Baim

The psychologist in him continues to surface.

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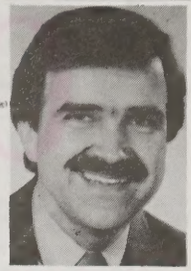

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